

written by noesecookie

you like that, baby?

well

ell

sh

nn

wrong

wrong

you

umber

we



NUDES

a l i s k o o k
fanfiction

NUDES



Published: 2020

Source: <https://www.wattpad.com>

NUDES.

9:28 PM

+ 82 XX XXXX YYYY:

[sent you two images]

9:29 PM

+ 82 XX XXXX YYYY:

you like that, baby?

9:34 PM

+ 82 XX XXXX YYYY:

wait...

shit.

wrong number.

BLACKPINK's Lisa puts herself in a sticky situation when a text meant for Chaeyoung ends up being sent to BTS' Jeongguk. *On accident.*

What the text contains, you may ask?

Her *nudes*.

P.S. JK's name will be spelled as JEONGGUK in this book, not JUNGKOOK because I'm used to calling him the former. If you don't like it, then kindly leave this story. Thank you ❤

+ my writing here is mediocre
than the style that i have now,
i want to edit this but i still
don't have the time.

take note that this was made
purely out of fun, and that i
only think both lisa and jk
look good together. this story
is harmless. trust.

NO TRANSLATIONS !

NO TRANSLATIONS !
NO TRANSLATIONS !

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED.

This is a figment of the
author's imagination.

Any similarities to
other stories or real-life
events are *purely*
coincidental.

HOESEOKIE © 2020

PROLOGUE

SAUNA

"I can't believe we're doing this." Chaeyoung exclaimed when she shyly removed her bath robe in front of Lalisa. "We're finally gonna see each other naked!"

Lisa laughed. "Oh my gosh, Chaeng. Chill. I know you just want to see my small ass." She joked but received a slap on the butt afterwards. "Wow, you like it rough, huh?"

"Shut up." The other girl rolled her eyes. "Let's just relax." She said with calmness but Lisa could see her eyes trailing down her body.

"You're creepy, Chaeng. What's up with that look?" Lisa wiped her forehead with her hand. The sauna wasn't really her type because it made her sweat, but her bestfriend wanted to do it together. And because she loved her, she didn't want to disagree.

Chaeyoung sighed. "Okay, I'll say it. I've been seeing articles about you having that perfect body ratio with nine heads and I'm just trying to see if it's really true." She blushed, looking down.

Lalisa chuckled. "Why didn't you say so?" She stood up and did a little twirl, making her bestfriend laugh.

"I hope you know that I'm not a creep. Just genuinely curious." Chaeyoung went near her and held her face.

"What are you doing?" She asked, frowning. Her bestfriend looked at her body from her forehead to her toes. "Chaeng, if you want to kiss me, just say so."

Chaeyoung suddenly wheezed, "Idiot. I was checking if the size of your head matches the rest of your body. Perfect ratio, remember?" She tapped Lisa's cheek twice. "Let's get on with our rest day."

Lisa winked, "If you say so."

BLACKPINK'S DORM

After their sauna session, Chaeyoung wanted to go shopping, but Lalisa did not have the energy. Her body was still sore from yesterday's intense workout, and shopping wasn't going to help.

Instead, she headed back to their dorm and spent the entire time lying down on her bed, watching her cats play with one another.

"Leo," She called out, "Leo, come to mommy." She clapped her hands and smiled at him, urging him to go to her.

The cat gave her a look and continued playing. *What a brat.*

Lisa rolled her eyes and flipped to the other side, wondering what to do. YouTube was boring, Instagram was as well, the same with Twitter. Her hand absentmindedly went to her text messages and scrolled through them.

She decided to text Chaeng to ask what was she doing but then, an idea popped into her mind.

Hurriedly, she went in front of her tall mirror and removed her top. She had no bra on - she didn't need it - so she didn't bother with anything else.

Lisa did a little pose, but wasn't satisfied. "I should remove everything, huh." She muttered to herself before removing her shorts and her undergarments.

She looked back to find her cats looking at her, seeming to be judging her. "What?" She asked, "Mommy's just taking nudes. It's safe, don't worry." Lisa smiled and faced the mirror again.

She shot photos at different angles, with a variety of poses. Sitting down, standing up, kneeling, accentuating her butt, holding her breasts, showing her tongue out - Lisa felt like an idiot.

Finally, she felt satisfied with her photos. She immediately opened her messages, tapped the compose button, and typed in Chaeyoung's number (yes, she had that memorised).

9:28 PM

+ 82 XX XXXX YYYY:

[sent you two images]

9:29 PM

+ 82 XX XXXX YYYY:

you like that, baby?

Lisa giggled as soon as she sent the text. She imagined Chaeyoung blushing furiously while shopping at Gucci, her shrieks while looking at the photos she sent. She would be livid.

After a few minutes, there was no reply.

Impatient, she grabbed her phone and checked her messages, immediately going to Chaeyoung's. However, she frowned. The texts she sent a while ago weren't there.

Wait.

It couldn't be.

She had Chaeyoung's number memorised. Surely, she shouldn't have made any mistakes while typing it.

Unless she did.

Hands shaking, she left her conversation with Chaeyoung and her suspicions were confirmed. She really did *actually* sent the text to the wrong number.

9:34 PM

+82 XX XXXX YYYY:

wait...

shit.

wrong number.

1

MARCH 10, 2019

LALISA:

oh my God. i'm so sorry.

i thought i typed in my friend's number correctly, but i got one number wrong.

this is a mistake. sorry.

please delete the photos.

hello???

please reply.

i'll pay you whatever, just please delete the photo. i'm begging you.

just say any amount and it's yours. i promise

UNKNOWN:

well

damn

LALISA:

thank god you replied!!!!

hello, i would like to ask you to delete the photos that i sent you. i'll give you any amount, just please delete it

UNKNOWN:

i don't need your money

but damn.

these pics are nice

LALISA:

thank you

but please delete them

UNKNOWN:

alright, lisa

LALISA:

thank you [message deleted]

wait, how do you know

it's me?

UNKNOWN:

your face is literally in the
picture

blonde hair and all
who else looks like that lol

LALISA:

oh my God. please.

i'm begging you, do not post
the photos online.

my company would kill me,
esp my boss.

i know you're thinking of selling
these pics but i'm willing to
pay any amount you want.

i'm serious, just delete them.
please.

UNKNOWN:

hm

i'll think about it
have a great day

LALISA:

you know what
fuck you

UNKNOWN:

i wish you would
jk
stop texting me tho.
i'm busy rn. let's talk when

i'm not

LALISA:

k

2

Jeongguk was tired. Exhausted. Sleepless. Muscles aching, he shifted his cramped leg in the makeshift elevated pillow and let out a relieved breath.

At least it wasn't hurting anymore.

He'd practice too much from the rehearsals hours ago. He'd overworked up to the point that he had trouble breathing and had to lie down because of his leg cramping - the sensation bringing tears into his eyes.

Sighing, he grabbed his phone from the bedside table and scrolled through Twitter. There was nothing much to see, just usual updates from their followed celebrities and interviewers. *Boring.*

He snorted and closed his phone again.

Jeongguk was about to doze off when his phone *tinged* twice.

Startled, he opened it and saw that he had received a text from an unknown number.

First was a picture, then another photo followed, and a text that said, *you like that, baby?*

"The hell." He muttered as the pictures slowly revealed themselves.

It was a girl.

Well, not exactly just a girl, but a girl with no clothes on. *Naked.* What did they call it in the West? Ah. *Nudes.*

He received nudes.

He zoomed the first picture and squinted his eyes. The girl had a sense of familiarity around her. Blonde hair, bangs... *I've seen her before... but where?*

She seemed to be an idol - judging from her dyed hair - and a foreign one at that, too. *Hm, which girl group has a foreign member?*

Blonde hair. Almond eyes. Doll-like face.

And then, it hit him like a stone. This was Lisa. BLACKPINK's Lisa from YG Entertainment.

She was gorgeous, all right. She did look like a doll, despite having her tongue out. His eyes trailed down to her body. *Holy hell.*

Lisa's body was *glorious*. She did not have huge breasts or an enormous ass, but damnit, she was perfect. Her small waist and wide hips made her have an hourglass figure, and her ass wasn't

that small either - just right. It was like one of those statues he found in museums.

Jeongguk licked his lips and scrolled down to see the second picture. This time, she was kneeling, legs apart, one hand tangled in her hair, winking. *Hot as fuck.* He thought.

His hand unconsciously went down to his pants, where a bulge was starting to appear.

He almost stroked his length when he stopped to think.

Wait, was this picture for me?

He opened his phone again and checked the message. Yes, it was sent to his number, but the girl probably got it all wrong. No one knew his number except his managers and his members. It was confidential.

It was frightening to think at first, that someone other than them knew his number, but then it wasn't so bad after all.

Out of all the possible numbers Lisa have typed, his was chosen. He supposed he should grovel and kneel now that he got picked, but he won't.

Shrugging, he closed the phone again and was starting to sleep when his phone made another sound. He rolled his eyes and opened the message.

9:34 PM

+ 82 XX XXXX YYYY:

wait...

shit.

wrong number.

He chuckled. He knew he needed to sleep, but a small conversation wouldn't hurt at all, right?

Jeongguk was smiling faintly as he typed his reply.

3

MARCH 10, 2019

11:31 pm

JEONGGUK

hey, darling.

LALISA

hey

can you delete my
pics now

JEONGGUK

straightforward i see

LALISA

yes so please delete them

JEONGGUK

i won't.

LALISA

what????? why???????

JEONGGUK

because i don't want to.

LALISA

i'll give you anything

JEONGGUK

ok. send me more nudes

LALISA

okay, now you're being a dick

fuck you

JEONGGUK

soon

LALISA

i'm going to track your number
and tell the police

JEONGGUK

oooooh scary

LALISA

i'm serious.

however

i won't do that if you
delete them now.

please. i'm begging you.
delete the photos.
my family is relying on me.

JEONGGUK

isn't your dad a chef or smth

LALISA

...yes

JEONGGUK

so they don't just rely on you
duh

LALISA

oH MY GOD. JUST PLEASE

DELETE THE PHOTOS

IS THAT TOO MUCH TO ASK?

GIVE ME YOUR BANK ACCOUNT

AND I'LL SEND YOUR A MILLION
US DOLLARS.

I'LL DO ANYTHING.

JEONGGUK

lol i have more than that

anyway

about that tracking thing

you may find me, yes

but you're also risking

your reputation.

what would papa yg say

if he sees your face clearly

plastered on the photo

idk bout u but i bet his stupid

ass would probs delay your

comeback

LALISA

what is it that you want????!

JEONGGUK

meet me

and let's talk things through.

LALISA

how do i know you're not

a creepy old man

JEONGGUK

just trust me

LALISA

the audacity of you to talk

about trust lmAOOO

how old are you anyway

JEONGGUK

hm. a few months younger
than you

LALISA

whatever. i'll bring
a bodyguard with me tho
so if you're planning something
don't do it

JEONGGUK

chill your small tits, ma
i just want to talk
things thru

jesus

LALISA

send me a picture

JEONGGUK

i don't do face reveals darling
however, i can probs send
a picture of my head

[PHOTO SENT]

LALISA

ah. so you're not old.

JEONGGUK

see

so meet me.

LALISA

you're a dick

but i will.

where

JEONGGUK

you see that cafe near yg
with all the plants and shit

LALISA

i know that. sure

JEONGGUK

next week. sunday

11pm

LALISA

next week??????

why not tomorrow???

JEONGGUK

just so you know, darling
i have a life too

i'm not jobless like you

LALISA

fuck you

JEONGGUK

gladly.

let's talk some other time,
yeah?

LALISA

wow

the nerve

k

4

MARCH 16, 2019

Lalisa glared at her phone.

Almost a week had passed since her last text with the stranger, and she still couldn't believe how stupid her replies were. She was just too transparent - she literally laid out a blueprint in front of him.

Why did she tell him she was going to bring a bodyguard? He probably would threaten her more when they meet in person.

Why did she agree to meet him so quickly? Maybe he would lead her somewhere isolated and do unspeakable things to her.

And most of all, why did she trust him instantly? God, she was an idiot. A fucking idiot.

She wanted to text him to cancel their meeting tomorrow, but she couldn't find the right words. Her hands were hovering at the keyboard, trying to think of what to send to him.

However, if she didn't meet him, he might probably leak the photos to the public. But then again, the way he texts shows that he doesn't care for the photos that much.

But still, he has the photos. What if someone might borrow his phone and see them? It'll be the end of her career. Another scandal to embarrass her company and her group.

She couldn't let that happen.

Lalisa was left with two choices: meet him but not knowing who he was, or not meet him, but let him keep the photos and do God knows what with them.

She preferred the former.

"Hey," Chaeyoung chirped, surprising her. The girl was panting after doing her warm-up session, "Why'd you look like that?"

Lisa scooted over to let her sit next to her. "Nothing. Just nervous about our comeback." Halfly true since their comeback was happening next month, but mostly because of her meeting with the guy tomorrow.

"Nah, don't worry about it. I know you'll do great, just like you always do." She gave her a smile, which Lisa returned.

"I have to ask you a question." She said, her smile disappearing, "This is a random question, no biggie."

"Ask away."

She gulped, "Let's put it this way." Licking her lips, she continued, "What if you accidentally sent someone your nudes... and then they asked you to meet them. What would you do?" Then, "Not real, of course."

Chaeyoung gave her a distasteful look.

"It's a random question." She gave her a nervous smile, "No biggie." She added. "So?"

Her bestfriend just rolled her eyes and stood up. "Sometimes, I don't know what going on in your mind, Lali. You're weird." She then left her.

Ugh. I guess I really have to meet this guy, huh? Lalisa could only roll her eyes before grabbing her phone again and texting the stranger.

7:18 pm

see you tomorrow.

5

MARCH 16, 2019

7:18 pm

LALISA

see you tomorrow.

9:21

JEONGGUK

hi, darling.

sorry, i just replied.

busy with stuff.

but i'll see you too, yea?

LALISA

what time will we

be meeting?

JEONGGUK

a time that's convenient
for you.

i'm free the whole day.

LALISA

afternoon sounds nice. i
don't want to lose my
appetite first thing in
the morning when i see
your face

JEONGGUK

darling, i am
ravishing

LALISA

so am i

JEONGGUK

true

LALISA

so, i'll see you then.

JEONGGUK

sure. text me all the
details i need to know.

LALISA

i hope you're not

fooling me, though.

i'm actually serious
about this. i hope
you are too, tho.

i've put my trust in
you, like you said.

so, please, don't make
fun of me.

JEONGGUK

darling, you're
overreacting
don't worry
this is all business
i won't to anything
to you. we're just
going to talk things thru
okay?

LALISA

whatever
you talk to me like
i'm five

JEONGGUK

i'm trying to comfort
you just so your
nerves won't get
bundled up
duh

LALISA

yea well that doesn't
change the fact that
you still have my
nudes

thanks though. goodnight

JEONGGUK

you sleep first
i'm still analyzing
your nudes
and wondering what
to do with them

□□□

LALISA

oh my god stop
fuck you
you're an asshole

JEONGGUK

sure. tomorrow

i'll see you darling

LALISA

k

6

MARCH 17, 2019

Jeongguk eyes were stuck at the blonde-haired girl at the booth across from him.

He tried to hide his snickers as she continued to look around for him and looking ultimately nervous. Was he really that intimidating?

The girl - Lalisa - seemed like a different girl compared to the vibe she gave from her photos. In person, she seemed shy, fidgety, and well, a bit cute (just a bit). In her photos, she was a badass, a savage, and a 100% hottie. The two contrasted each other.

She was rubbing her hands together and then folding them, and then rubbing them again. Jeongguk wondered if she was about to belt out an opera because of how she was acting.

Her hands suddenly grabbed her phone from the table and typed in something quickly.

Mere seconds later, his own phone vibrated.

3:36pm

LALISA

where are you? get your
lazy ass and come here!!

He almost snorted. Licking his lips, he replied,

JEONGGUK

lmaooooo
you look cute in that
shirt of yours

It was true. Lalisa did look cute. She was wearing this black crop top with one shoulder out and the other tucked into a sleeve. Her jeans also made her legs look really long (hella long), and her shoes were just plain old Converse. *Kind of my type*, he thought before thinking of it. *Ew*.

Upon reading the text, the girl looked around. No one was in the cafe except the both of them - and another guy at another booth.

Her eyes landed on him first, then back to her phone, and then to the other guy. Jeongguk saw her gulp and typed in something to her phone.

LALISA

you're here?? but which

of the two guys are you

He made sure he was using his phone when the text arrived so it wasn't obvious that he was the one texting her. He was grinning like an idiot behind his mask and was trying to cover up his chuckles with coughs.

JEONGGUK

scream "ice" and

i'll say "cream"

Lisa's eyes widened.

LALISA

are you serious?

we are not doing this now.

we're going to talk about my
nudes dumbass. not play

some game

JEONGGUK

yea i know but where's

the fun it that

now scream

or I'll show everyone

in this restaurant

your pics

Jeongguk's eyes shifted back to the girl. She was fuming. Her cheeks were puffed and her eyes had a murderous glare in them. Her hands were typing furiously on her phone.

He was waiting for her reply until he saw her set her phone down and stand up.

She's gonna do it, he realised. Oh my God. Did I go too far?

Lalisa took a deep breath and screamed, "ICE!" She then stared at everyone in the restaurant, including the staff.

Everyone stopped what they're doing and stared at her as well, even Jeongguk.

No one replied.

What the hell. He thought.

He abruptly cleared his throat and squeaked, "Cream."

Lisa's gaze landed on him and her eyes narrowed. Slowly, she walked to his booth.

"So, it's you." Lalisa started. "You made me look like an idiot back there."

"Yeah, well, I didn't expect you to." Jeongguk replied, shrugging. She looked kind of pretty up close, with her almond eyes and her little nose.

Lisa rolled her eyes. "I told you. I was willing to do anything in exchange for *that*." She sat down, "Well, now that I'm here, let's talk

about our business."

He chuckled, "Before anything else though, let's not forget our introductions first, shall we?"

"You already know me, dickhead." She leaned back and crossed her arms, "And you know you're wasting my time. I should be rehearsing right now yet here I am." She flipped her hair, "You're welcome."

He let out a heart laugh and lowered his mask, "You're not the only one with rehearsals." He smiled at her, "Hello, darling. I'm Jeon Jeongguk." And then winked.

Lisa's jaw dropped and she was blinking furiously.

"What? No bows or compliments?" Jeongguk raised his brows.

"No, no, Jeongguk-ssi, but it's just..." Lisa found her composure again and was struggling to find the right words, her eyes darting everywhere except for him.

"It's just?"

"You... you have... something in your teeth."

"I do?"

Lalisa could see Jeongguk's confidence crumbling. *Good for him, she thought. "No, I was just joking."*

Jeongguk breathed in relief, "Thank God. I thought I might lose myself back there." His cocky grin returned, "So, no flustered smiles or respectful bows to your senior?"

Lisa snorted, "You're younger than me, you know. You should be the one doing that."

He scoffed, "The nerve of you to say that."

"Yeah, well, you're not jobless like me, right?" Lisa quoted back what he said. That part actually stung a bit, but she chose to ignore it the first time she saw it. "Anyway, let's talk business, Jeongguk."

"You can call me Guk. Jeongguk's too long, like my—"

"I don't care." Lisa waved him off, "So, the nudes—"

"Were you even surprised to see that it was me you were meeting?" He asked, eyebrows raised. Girls - even other idols - were always acting like shy school girls whenever they were talking to him face to face. However, Lisa was not. It made Jeongguk irritated. He always had this charm that men and women couldn't resist - but Lisa seemed immune to it.

Lisa frowned. "No. Why would I?" Her eyes widened animatedly and she put her hand to her mouth, "Don't tell me that just because you've been to the Billboard Awards and the Grammys and you're basically one of the kings of Kpop now, you expect me to act all giddy and shy around you?" She threw her head back and laughed, "You're funny."

Jeongguk was red. *How dare she?* "I.. I don't but—" He licked his lips, "I was just asking if you were even surprised to know that it was me." His ego was hurting and he was trying so hard not to show her that.

"No." She shrugged. "Just because you're wearing a mask doesn't mean you're practically invisible, darling. I knew who you were the moment you entered the cafe." She smiled smugly. "The mask doesn't hide your entire face though, just your mouth. It's a fact."

His jaw dropped. This is one hell of a woman. He actually felt

intimidated by her. "You.. you're-"

"A clever fox? I know. You weren't expecting this, huh?" Lisa smiled faintly, "Try to improve your disguises next time, yeah?" She winked and added, "And don't try to blackmail me again or I'll rip your balls."

Jeongguk glared at her. "Suck my dick." That was all he could come up with, and he felt embarrassed. He wanted to bury himself alive. No one has spoken to him like this before. Not one soul.

"Maybe I will." She seemed to be considering it. "Anyway, about the nudes. I suppose I should thank God that I accidentally sent the nudes to you and not to some creepy old man."

He took a sip of his now-cold coffee, "Lucky you."

"I know. So, what's your price?"

"I don't know. I think my net worth is around-"

"What do you want from me just so you could delete the nudes?"

"Chill, woman." He smirked, "You'd give me anything?" He was slowly going back to his former composure. Maybe if he could switch things up, he'd have the upper hand again.

"I don't like that look." Lalisa frowned. The tables were slowly turning - and she did not have a good feeling about it.

Jeongguk shrugged nonchalantly, "I'm just asking." He grinned at her, "So, anything?"

"I.. I guess so." Her brain was a mess trying to think of the things Jeongguk could take from her. What else could he want?

He held out a hand. "Let's make a deal first."

"What?" Lisa looked at him. "You're just going to delete my nudes. That's not hard."

"Well, I don't want to delete them." The truth. "That's why we need to make a deal for you to convince me to delete them. That's not hard." He repeated. Oh, how he loved where this was heading. He can feel his confidence returning slowly.

She bit her lip. It was now her turn to feel intimidated. *What could go wrong?* "Alright." She put her hand in his and shook it. "A deal's a deal."

"Great. Now here's what I want." Jeongguk leaned back on his seat and stared at her in such a way that made her lick her lips out of instinct.

"I'm listening."

"Be my girlfriend for four months."

sorry if i updated early y'all but it's past 1 am here and i'm bored

"No."

Jeongguk chuckled. "I knew you'd say that."

"Give me another option."

"There's no other option. That's just it. Be my girlfriend for four months and then we're done." He shrugged as he looked into her calculating eyes.

"You're aware of my dating ban, yes?" Lalisa asked, one eyebrow raised, "I'm not allowed to date anyone until our third anniversary, so give me another option and I'd likely give it to you."

He shook his head, "No."

"Again, I have a dating ban. I know you know the consequences because you've been there before." She repeated like she was talking to a child. He was an idiot.

He grinned at her, "Yes, I am very fully aware. And that's what's going to make this fun."

Lisa rolled her eyes, "Boys and your secret rendezvous."

"I know." He checked the time on his phone. "So, do you agree?"

She was silent for a moment. Be his girlfriend for four months, yet risk being caught by her managers and probably be kicked out of her group.

However, on the bright side, she might have something to look forward to; a person who she could tell her problems to, a person who could listen to her, a person who would welcome her in his arms, a person that would comfort her during her breakdowns, a person who would keep her close and whisper sweet nothings to her ear (even if it isn't real). A *boyfriend*.

This was something that idols were deprived of. The feeling of loving and being loved back, the feeling of intimacy. They may have friends or group members and family to be with them but at the end of the day, they would always need that one person that would love them and would show them how they need to be loved.

She knew this was what Jeongguk was wanting, too. She could see it in his eyes. He's part of the biggest boy group in the entire world as of the moment, yet he has nobody to lean onto except his members. With constant tiring activities all the time, who wouldn't ache for a person who would take all those away?

It was a normal thing in the idol life - the feeling of loneliness. She feels it sometimes, whenever she watches kdramas and she would yearn to feel that love that they were showing. Maybe she was a hopeless romantic, but it was true..

"I don't know." She rubbed her arms together, "I'm not sure."

"Not sure of what?"

"What if people would find out? What would they think of me, what would they think of you?" She asked, frowning. "I don't want to put myself or even you at a risky position."

"Aww, you're concerned for me?" Jeongguk put a hand in his heart, "That's so sweet."

"I'm concerned for our careers, dumbass." She rolled her eyes, "However..."

"However what?"

"The idea is tempting." She admitted even though she didn't want to. "Does this come with benefits?"

He gave her a smirk, "What benefits?"

"You know what I'm talking about."

The guy chuckled, "Do you want it to?"

Lisa stared at him, "Isn't it obvious?"

"No, it isn't. You look like a good type of girl, and I didn't really expect you to be so... *interested* in sexual activities." Jeongguk smiled at her in amusement.

"Here's a fact: I love sex, alright? And I'm totally down for all of this just because I need release sometimes." She said truthfully, "I'm just so tired of hooking up with guys who know me as BLACKPINK'S Lisa and then having to pay them a huge amount just so they could keep their mouths shut." She sighed.

"Same thing here." He replied, "It's extremely difficult to find hook ups that would have sex with you rather than gush over you and your awards. I only want sex but we end up talking about my experiences and achievements in the US. It's time consuming." He rolled his eyes, "I just want to have a good time and escape work for a bit, you know?"

"Yeah." Lisa agreed. "What now?"

"So, you agree to be my girlfriend for four months?" He was raising his brows at her, waiting for her decision.

"I agreed with the benefits... the rest, I don't know. It's up to you." She shrugged, "The benefits make it sound very tempting, though, so I guess I do agree?" It sounded like a question more than a statement.

"Thank God." Jeongguk was smiling like a kid who had just received a gift, "We start today, by the way."

"Oh yeah? What would we do first a *boyfriend* and *girlfriend*?" Lisa

asked, making quotation marks in the air.

"Well, we have to lay out the rules first." He started. "First, no feelings should be involved. This is all for fun, yeah? We'll be doing all the things that couples do, but no feelings. It won't last long, anyway."

Lisa snorted, "As if I actually want to be with you."

"You'll fall for me - eventually." He joked.

"What's next?"

"Our members can find out, our family and our company cannot."

"Okay." She nodded, "Anything else?" Jeongguk shook his head. Those rules were easy as hell. "Alright. What's the second thing we'll do as *boyfriend* and *girlfriend* then?"

"Let's start with the benefits?" He winked suggestively at her, which she returned with a squint of her eyes.

"No. My body's sore from working out."

Jeongguk had the audacity to pout his lips. "That sucks."

"However," She licked her lips, "I can do other things that does not involve that much movement."

The devious glint in his eyes returned, "Oh yeah?"

"So, hand job or blow job?"

9

6:12pm

LALISA

hey sorry i
had to leave
early.

JEONGGUK

hey girlfrieeend
it's fine
thanks for the blow

LALISA

lol no problem.. i
guess???

JEONGGUK

i'll make it up to
you next time
anyway
you were not i
was expecting you
to be

LALISA

what do you mean

JEONGGUK

i didn't expect you to be
so sexually active

LALISA

what did you want me
to say

i literally just sent
you my nudes

JEONGGUK

nothing it's just
i can't believe you
swallowed
and no gag reflex?
impressive

LALISA

your cum are practically
your children

i didn't want to just spit
them out

JEONGGUK

hm you're right

so it means my children
are inside you right now

LALISA

that's weird i'll just
pretend i didn't read that

JEONGGUK

....

yea i just realized it
sorry

LALISA

back to the topic
you were saying??

JEONGGUK

oh yeah.

i honestly thought that
you were innocent

remember the speech you gave
at gaon? where you were
speaking cutely and everyone
was cooing at you

i thought that you were like
that in person

but dang. i was mistaken

LALISA

i was shy as hell that time ok
but that's another part of me
that i show to the public

i can't really show my
sexually active side
because i might get
hated on you know

JEONGGUK

yea. the fans are really
against all those stuff
don't know why

LALISA

true

JEONGGUK

by the way
when is your free time?
LALISA
wait let me check
i'm free Tuesday morning
from 5 to 10 am
our rehearsals would be
in the afternoon
why?
JEONGGUK
let's go on a breakfast
date
my rehearsals end at 3am
and will start again at 3pm
LALISA
that's exciting
but you need to rest first, guk
JEONGGUK
i will. after our breakfast date
LALISA
idiot. you need at least four
or five hours of sleep
JEONGGUK
i willllll
after
breakfast will be quick
anyway
LALISA
you're insufferable
JEONGGUK
i'm your boyfriend
lmao
so, you in?
LALISA
sure i guess
JEONGGUK
yesss i'll text you okay?
LALISA
alright
JEONGGUK
i'll sleep first, lali
i'll talk to you as soon
as i wake up
LALISA

thank God
rest up guk

sleep tight

JEONGGUK

i'll see you in my
dreams

LALISA

yea if i were in your dreams
i'd be chasing you with a
knife

JEONGGUK

that's so romantic

goodnight

LALISA

don't let the bed bugs bite

10

MARCH 18, 2019

4:09am

JEONGGUK

good morning sunshine

LALISA

morning

JEONGGUK

what are you up to today

LALISA

rehearsals anddd

recording

JEONGGUK

naw that shit's tiring

LALISA

i know right

how about you?

JEONGGUK

same thing

comeback's in early

april

LALISA

wait what really

our comeback's in

april too aaaa

JEONGGUK

woah finally

a full album?

LALISA

sadly, no

JEONGGUK

why?

LALISA

i don't know either

we've been asking for
a full album since last
year but they kept
on telling us to wait

JEONGGUK

but... you're almost
a three year old
group???

LALISA

YES exactly what i
was thinking
jennie has already
written several songs
as well as jisoo and
chaeng
and me but whatever
but they've all denied
the songs we did
which leaves us to
teddy yet again

JEONGGUK

wait
no offense but
you can write
your own songs???

LALISA

none taken
yes we actually do
but to the public it
seems like we're just
relying on teddy but
we aren't.
they literally just
decline our songs

so

□

JEONGGUK

oh wow
that's... harsh
i'm sorry i called you
jobless the other day
thought it was funny
but it wasn't

LALISA

well whatever
that's just how it is
we just deal with it

JEONGGUK

that shouldn't be though
you're yg's money makers
the company owes
you as much

LALISA

we're not given that
much of a choice
anyway

by the way
you have full
sched today?

JEONGGUK

yes
you miss me
already?

LALISA

nah. just asking

JEONGGUK

you?

LALISA

same
comeback's on
5th of april

JEONGGUK

ours is on the 12th
hopefully we'll see
each other at
music shows

LALISA

and then what

JEONGGUK

then a quickie
for goodluck

LALISA

its 4 in the morning guk

JEONGGUK

jk

we can have dinner
together with our
members

make new friends

LALISA

that seems like a
good idea

then we can put
on a show of us
acting all coupley
lmfaoooo can't wait
to see their faces

JEONGGUK

that's so good
let's plan it out
shall we?
actually excited
for this

my hyungs always
tease me because
i don't do serious
relationships lol

LALISA

omg really
same thing with
my unnies
they tease me
because i haven't
been in a relationship
yet lmao

you're actually my
first boyfriend

JEONGGUK

woah really?

LALISA

it's our time to shine then
anyway let's talk later
i have practice at 4 30

JEONGGUK

sure. i'm also in
the middle of
recording lol

LALISA

goodluck! i know
you'll be great
as always
bye bye

JEONGGUK

thanks, liz. you too
bye

11

MARCH 19, 2019

Lalisa stood outside the brunch cafe near the BigHit building where Jeongguk and her were supposed to eat at.

It was 5:00 am. The sun wasn't out yet and the temperature was still too cold that she had to wear a hoodie and a pair of sweats. Hopefully, that would be appropriate for a breakfast date (she did not want to wear a dress 5am in the morning).

A moment later, a silhouette came to view. Lo and behold, it was Jeongguk.

He walked sluggishly, as if every step was draining the life out of him. Like Lisa, he was also wearing a hoodie with a pair of jogging pants and a face mask (which did nothing to hide his face, but no one was there, anyway).

"Hey." She greeted as she walked closer to him. He looked exhausted up close with his darkened eye bags that she had no choice but to put his arm around her shoulder to help him walk (it was awkward, but she managed). "Good morning to you too."

"Good morning." He muttered back, voice raspy. "I'm a literal zombie right now."

"Very obvious." She replied while rolling her eyes as they walked inside the cafe. "Let's sit down so you can rest your heavy ass."

Jeongguk let out a low chuckle, "Once I eat, I'll be back to normal, I swear." She helped him sit down in a nearby booth. "Thank you, darling."

"My pleasure." She replied with a relieved breath as she slid to his opposite side. A waiter came to their table and gave them two menus, one of which she didn't hand to Jeongguk. She believed he didn't have the ability to read as of the moment, as he was dozing off on the table. "What would you like?" She asked instead.

"Ramen will do." He replied groggily.

Lisa raised her brow at him and said, "I'll have two servings of bacon and waffles, two glasses of milk - wait make that three, and a plate of sausages." She finished off, smiling at the waiter even if he couldn't see her mouth. He nodded and went on his way.

Jeongguk raised his head and stared at her with bloodshot eyes, "What part of *ramen* did you not understand?"

"You need to eat, Junglebook. Ramen wouldn't help." She leaned

back, "Besides, it there's no ramen here anyway."

He combed his hair back with his fingers, "Sorry about this. I was so sure I'd be fine after the rehearsals."

"It's fine. I'm here to help you and act like your nanny anyway." She gave him a look. It was silent for a few seconds before she asked, "How's practice?"

"Fine. Tiring, but fine. My muscles are aching." He sighed, "I just want to sleep for an entire day."

"Same thing. I'm tired, too." She blew a hair out of her face. Practices during midnight had become a trend in their company and sad to say, BLACKPINK had those midnight sessions, too.

"Not obvious. You look like you just woke up from an eight hour sleep." He said, looking at her up and down. "Anyway, you've piqued my interest last night." She raised her brow. "You told me that you've never had a boyfriend." He tilted his head, "Why so?"

Lisa squinted her eyes. "I don't know." She shrugged. "Probably because I was boyish than boys back then." She smiled to herself, "I had a pixie cut that I felt so proud of and I also used to wear all this boy stuff and think that I was cool." She cringed at that memory.

Jeongguk grinned, "Really? What happened to you now, then?"

"I discovered that there were more than just pants and tshirts."

"That's what we used to think before, too - me and my hyungs." He played with the tissue on the table, "We thought we were so awesome just because we wore baggy shirts and baggy jeans. Let us not forget about the sneakers and the sunglasses."

Lisa's mouth quirked to the side, "Yeah, I remember that. That was the We Are Bulletproof era, right?" He nodded. "You were still a kid back then. How'd you manage to be in the limelight at such a young age?"

Jeongguk shrugged. "No idea. I just got used to it."

"To be honest..." Her head tilted to the side, "I'm not even used to the idol life yet. I'm almost there, but sometimes, there are things that still surprise me. I wonder when will it ever stop."

"Like what?"

"Like how boy groups are more prioritized than girl groups in YG." She pursed her lips. "It's quite unfair. Still catches me by surprise when the managers announce their full albums when ours isn't even halfway through yet."

He leaned forward, staring at her. "Are you still happy at YG though?"

"I don't know, am I?" She asked, not even knowing why she suddenly felt like sharing everything to him, "Sometimes, I wonder what could have happened if Blackpink debuted in a different company. Would we be as successful as we are now? Would we

have multiple comebacks like other idols? Would we do other things besides dancing, rapping, and singing?" She sighed and they were silent for a moment.

Then, all of the things she said dawned upon her. She literally just told him everything she shouldn't have. "Oh my God, I'm so sorry- I said too much, I know you're thinking of me as someone who's ungrateful but I promise you that was not- "

"No, no! It's fine. I'm willing to listen," He looked down on his hands, "And to be your friend."

Lisa analyzed him for a bit. "But..." She gulped, "You promise not to tell anyone, okay? I don't even tell Chaeyoung about this but you..."

"How about this, we're both fake dating, right?" She nodded. "In order for us to not hate each other all the while, I suggest we become friends. Good friends, best friends, I don't know. I'd be willing to listen to your problems and be your sort of sexy human diary while you'll be mine."

She contemplated. The idea wasn't so bad. She basically had no one to talk to about her problems anyway, thinking that she might be despised, but here he was, offering to listen to them. It was... sweet. In a way. "Well, whatever. Just don't tell anyone."

He rolled his eyes, "Chill, darling. Anyway, back to the topic." He looked at her again. "Do you want to do anything other than dancing, rapping, and singing?" Jeongguk asked, curiously in his eyes. He felt grateful that she had shared this with him, and wanted to make her feel better in any way possible - as a friend and a fellow idol, of course. It was clear that this girl didn't have anyone to tell her problems to, despite having her members. Oddly, he felt the same way as her. Like his hyungs, they were all either too tired or too busy to even talk to each other most of the time. He knows the feeling all too well.

Lisa leaned forward, their elbows almost touching. "Don't laugh, okay?" She asked, he nodded. "I want to be a painter."

"What's funny with that?"

"I don't know. I just... it seems weird for me to want to be a painter when I've got zero experience whatsoever." Lisa shrugged and leaned back again, crossing her arms over her chest. "I don't even have the time to paint or go to painting workshops."

Jeongguk pondered. Just as he was about to reply, the waiter came back with their orders.

He leaned back as two plates of bacon and waffles were placed in front of them, followed by three glasses of milk and a plate of sausages.

Lisa muttered her thanks and looked at him. "The other glass of

milk is for you. You need to strengthen your bones or you'll be like my grandpa."

"I'd rather be your daddy instead." He smirked as he grabbed a sausage and bit into it, the oil dripping down to his lips.

Lisa stared at him as he licked it off. "Jeongguk, please don't tempt me to smack your head on the table right now." She said and sliced into her waffles. "Oh my God, they are so soft."

"That's what she said." He muttered and tried the waffle as well. "Holy hell, you're right." He exclaimed at stuffed another bite into his mouth.

"Tell me if you want more, okay?" She told him. "This is my treat."

Jeongguk stopped eating and stared at her. "No, my treat."

"Yes, it's my treat." She glared at him. "Now eat up."

12

10:31am

JEONGGUK

thank you for
the breakfast
darling ❤️

LALISA

its no problem
you needed it
you were literally a living zombie

JEONGGUK

a handsome zombie
you mean

LALISA

whatever floats
in your boat

JEONGGUK

you float on
my boat
lol jk
but you didn't
have to drop me
off my dorm

that's very ungentlemanly
of me you know

LALISA

nah it wasnt, really
it's fine for me

JEONGGUK

well what if the
taxi driver knew
it was us

LALISA

guess we'd pay him
a huge amount of
money then

JEONGGUK

yeah and treat him

to breakfast as well

LALISA

did you like the
brunch cafe?

JEONGGUK

it was amazing
i'd have to take
jimin there someday
i think he'd like
the waffles

LALISA

you have to try
their pasta too
very yum

JEONGGUK

can't believe that
i've never eaten
in that cafe before

LALISA

you're busy,
that's why

JEONGGUK

yea
thanks for taking
care of me too
i appreciate it
lol

LALISA

always
when will you
be free again?

JEONGGUK

probably not until
the 29th

that is next week
i think

LALISA

well whatever
don't forget about
my nudes, yea?

JEONGGUK

i jerk off to your nudes
wdym

LALISA

idiot

JEONGGUK

just kidding

yea i'm not forgetting
them

however

even if we have this
fake dating with
benefits kind of
thing

i hope we'd be
able to be good
friends

LALISA

of course

you said that a
hundredth time
already

but

i don't really
have any close
male friends
except bambam
others are just
acquaintances
most of my friends

are girls

it'd be nice to
have a bit of
change

:))

JEONGGUK

sweetheart have
you been living
under a rock

LALISA

no but yg makes
us think we are

JEONGGUK

awww

oh hey i've got
to tell you something

LALISA

what is it

JEONGGUK

if you need someone
to talk to, i'm here
just one call away

LALISA

hmmm

JEONGGUK

i'm serious

LALISA

hahaha okay
thank you
for listening to me
a while ago :)

JEONGGUK

always
anyway
i've got to sleep

now lol

LALISA

yea yea
i'm heading to yg
in a bit

JEONGGUK

take care lali
text me as soon
as rehearsals
are done

LALISA

wow look at you
acting all boyfriend-y
and stuff

hahahaha

but go on

i'll text you, k?

JEONGGUK

hahahaha
whatever
hope you choke

LALISA

choke on your dick
you mean

JEONGGUK

i don't want to
have a boner

right now

so stop giving me
that idea

LALISA

hahahahahahahaha

yea well sleep alr
talk to you later

mr jeon

JEONGGUK

i like the sound
of that

ttyl darling

LALISA



13

MARCH 20, 2019

7:34 am

LALISA

good morning

junglebook

JEONGGUK

good morning

a miracle you

texted me first

huh

miss me already?



LALISA

nah. just want

to remind you

about my nudes

JEONGGUK

yes yes yes

your nudes

i'll keep my

word chill

LALISA

you better

anyway

not to be rude but

have you eaten

breakfast yet?

JEONGGUK

why

do you want to

have breakfast

together again?

LALISA

dumbass. i'm

just asking

so?

JEONGGUK

yesss i've had

breakfast

and it wasn't

ramen hehe

LALISA

well that's good

ramen isn't enough
for you, you know.

you need to eat

real food so

you won't be

tired immediately

JEONGGUK

ramen isn't real?

LALISA

you know what

i mean

JEONGGUK

okay fine

how about you

darling

have you eaten yet?

LALISA

yea

we've been

practicing since

5 am

this is our only

break lol

JEONGGUK

and you decided

to spend your break

texting me? i'm

flattered

LALISA

shut up

JEONGGUK

anyway

you eat, too, yea?

i don't want to

go to yg and drop

you off lunch

LALISA

that would be
sweet tbh

not that i'm
asking you to
JEONGGUK

hmmmm

someday

LALISA

nah don't mind it
what r you up to
anyway?
rehearsals?

JEONGGUK

you got that
right
polishing our
dances and stuff

LALISA

oof that's tiring
JEONGGUK

literally
i just want
to sleep

LALISA

is it your
break?

JEONGGUK

nope
rehearsals haven't
started yet
it'll start at 8

LALISA

well go get
ready then
let's talk later
JEONGGUK

yeah i better
i'm still pooping
in the bathroom though

LALISA

tmi but go
JEONGGUK

hahahaha

okay darling

i'll text you once
practice is done

LALISA

okay

take care and
don't starve

JEONGGUK

i promise

MARCH 21, 2019

9:25 pm

JEONGGUK

yo i am EXHAUSTED

darling hello

9:52 pm

JEONGGUK

hey

baby

what are

you doing?

10:21 pm

JEONGGUK

darlinggg

i need you

10:46 pm

JEONGGUK

say SIKE

11:00 pm

LALISA

oh my god

i'm so sorry

i just woke up

JEONGGUK

lali you're back



LALISA

i just woke up

because we

have midnight

rehearsals

i slept from

this afternoon

until now

anywho

you seem to be

clingy tonight
what is uppp

JEONGGUK

i'm so tired
we practiced
with live vocals
today
it was not good
my breathing wasn't
right and i kept on
panting while singing



LALISA

do you want to
meet up or
something?

JEONGGUK

you're too sweet
darling but we
can't

we both have
rehearsals

LALISA

ikr

JEONGGUK

i just need
someone to
talk to

LALISA

well i'm
here now
dadaaa

JEONGGUK

that's cute
send me a selfie

LALISA

because you
like looking
at my beautiful
face?

JEONGGUK

no
i just want to
see your face

just so i could
be reminded
that there could
be someone uglier
than i am

LALISA

haha that's so funny
suck your own
dick next time
junglebook

JEONGGUK

just kidding darling
you're one of the
most beautiful
persons that i've
ever seen

and mind you
i've seen a lot
of beautiful people
not just in korea
but the whole wide
world

LALISA

flattery won't get
you anywhere
you know

JEONGGUK

i don't want
to be anywhere
i just need to
be by your side

LALISA

i cringed
JEONGGUK

...

me too

LALISA

i gotta go now
though

JEONGGUK

yes you should
thank you for
talking to me
our conversations

give me a lot
of energy tbh haha

LALISA

let's text more
often then

JEONGGUK

we already
text each other
throughout the
whole day stupid

LALISA

lmao my members
are curious
they keep on peeking
at my phone

JEONGGUK

lmao same thing here
LALISA

this is quite fun

JEONGGUK

yea

LALISA

i'll talk to you l8er
bye bye

JEONGGUK

yea i'm about
to nap and
then practice
again

bye darling

MARCH 22, 2019

1:59 pm

JEONGGUK

lunch yet, darling?

LALISA

not yet. still recording

JEONGGUK

for?

LALISA

for our japanese
album

i've been recording
my parts for almost
two hours now

my mouth is aching

JEONGGUK

would you like
a kiss?

LALISA

no thanks

JEONGGUK

as for me, i just
had lunch with
taetae

we ate at this
fried chicken

place

hella good

LALISA

wow i wish

i'm so hungry

jsjджkxxkc

JEONGGUK

hmm

LALISA

if you're going
to make a dirty
joke please don't

i'm literally hungry

JEONGGUK

would you like
me to drop off
some food there,
darling?

LALISA

no, no, it's
fine guk

you don't need to

JEONGGUK

whatever my
lady says

LALISA

let's talk later

i have to do another
round of raps ugh

JEONGGUK

i know you're
going to do awesome

take care and
eat, darling, please

LALISA

thank you guk

MARCH 23, 2019

Lalisa's eyes were slowly closing as she laid on the floor of their practice room.

It was almost lunch time, yet her sleepiness had won rather than her hunger. She chose to doze off on their practice room because no one was there except her and her members, and also because the airconditioning was so cold that it made her sleepy. Their next practice was three hours after, anyway.

As soon as her eyes closed, Jennie dropped something on the floor near her. Startled, her eyes shot open and saw that a white paper bag was laying next to her, as well as a sitting down Jennie.

She sat up, frowning at the bag. "What's this?"

Jennie shrugged, "I don't know. The security guard just said it came from another artist within the company but he didn't tell me who." She sat next to her, "Go ahead, open it."

Another artist within the company? Lalisa thought, who would send her this?

Scratching her head, she grabbed the white paper bag and opened it.

Inside was a box of BHC fried chicken, a box of cheese balls, two tupperwears, a triangular gimbap, a bottle of water, and an M&M chocolate.

"Oh, wow, that's delicious." Jennie licked her lips, staring at the insides of the bag. "Can I have one?"

Lisa chuckled, "Of course! Although, I don't even know who gave me this."

Her unnie stood up, "Well, whoever that person is, he or she deserves all the Lord's blessings." She walked towards the door, "I'm gonna call the others, okay?" Lisa nodded and she left.

She took out all the contents of the white paper bag and opened them each. The box of chicken were cheese flavoured (her favorite) and the two tupperwears contained kimchi fried rice and seaweed soup.

However, as she removed the tupperwears from the bag, there was a note under. It said,

hello, darling.

you're probably thinking, "oh no, he shouldn't have sent me this!" or bla bla bla but no. i know you're working extra hard so you deserve this little gift from me (non-platonically, of course). don't worry, it's not laced with love potion or anything (i know you're already falling for me

because of my strikingly handsome looks) and you can share it with your members, too. i also happen to know your certain love for balls ;)

by the way, i personally made the kimchi fried rice and the seaweed soup. i don't cook often but it would hurt my good heart if you won't eat them :(

anyway, enjoy your lunch! i had to bribe a certain ikon member to give this to you lol

all the love, guk

Lalisa rolled her eyes and smiled to herself. He was stupid, alright, but he was a good stupid. No one had ever done this to her and she felt really, really happy. Jeongguk may be a dick sometimes, but he was a good friend - one that she was starting to treasure.

She folded the piece of paper and put it inside her pocket. Pulling out her phone, she typed in a text message.

11:24 am

LALISA

thank you for
the lunch, guk!

appreciate it ❤

A few minutes later, his reply came.

11:28 am

JEONGGUK

always welcome,
darling.

She smiled at her phone and at the same time, her members entered.

"Oh my God, that looks so good!"

"I brought more food!"

"Let's eat up, girls!"

They all sat on the floor of the practice room and enjoyed their hearty lunch, amidst of the exhausting practices and tiring recordings.

14

MARCH 25, 2019

The Han River was quiet tonight.

Jeongguk had his elbows on the railing of the river, earphones on and staring at the water. He didn't do well at practice today - his voice had become raspy from yesterday's live rehearsal and he hadn't been able to take a proper vocal rest ever since. It made him frustrated.

Namjoon had tried to comfort him but he wasn't having it. Their comeback was days away and he seemed to be not ready for it. What if they fail because of him?

He shook his head at the thought.

Pulling out his phone from his pocket, he checked the time. It was 10 in the evening yet Lalisa stopped texting him an hour ago and he wondered what had happened to her.

Their conversations were something he looked forward to everyday, and he's becoming quite attached to the girl. He didn't want to admit it but that was the truth. They text every morning, every afternoon, every night, during lunch, during the breaks - whenever they have free time.

They talk about various things like how he had his first heartbreak or how her audition went when she signed up for YG - basically never ending topics. He had listened to her problems and she had listened to his. They both found a friend in each other and he was glad for it.

10:06 pm

JEONGGUK

darling where

are you?

He tapped send and returned the phone back to his pocket.

Minutes passed, no reply.

Maybe she has practice or something. He thought and just shrugged it off.

A moment later, he thought he saw blonde hair from his peripheral vision. He turned and saw a blonde-haired girl walking with earphones on and wearing a fur coat with various colors. Her hair was tied into a low messy bun and she was staring straight

ahead without a care in the world. *Is it her?*

Licking his lips, he called out, "Hey."

The girl turned to him and by just looking at her eyes, he knew she was Lisa. Her eyes widened as she saw him and hurriedly walked over to where he was.

"Jeongguk," She spoke, her voice unclear because of her mask, "What are you doing here?" Her eyes darted from left to right, checking if there was someone looking at them. The Han River is known as the place where idol couples meet, and they were no exception (even if their relationship was fake). Fortunately for them, no one was around.

"Just thinking." He tilted his head, "How about you? You didn't text me."

Lisa scoffed, "You were expecting me to text you, huh." She went next to him and put her hands on the railing, too. "I was busy."

Jeongguk sighed, "Me too. I'm so tired, I can't even sing properly right now." He looked at her bare face and asked, "What brought you here, darling?"

"I don't know. I needed air." She replied and looked at her hands. Last time he saw her was their breakfast date a week ago, but she still looked beautiful as ever. *Wait, no.*

"You mean to say there's no air in your dorm?"

She suddenly smacked his head to which he shrieked, "Not literal air, Junglebook. I needed space to think and our dorm is not the exact place for that. My members are noisy as hell."

He rolled his eyes, caressing the spot where she smacked him, "Yeah. Well, whatever, just continue to think about stuff over there. I'm going to get some snacks." He was about to leave when she grabbed his hand.

"I literally just got here, and you're going to leave me?" She asked, disbelieving, "I need a brooding buddy, you know."

"Come with me then. You can talk about those stuff while eating." He replied, knowing the dangers of staying too long at the river. "This place isn't exactly safe for *idol couples* like us, especially from two worldwide famous groups." He added the last part as a joke (but it was true).

"Stop being so cocky, yeah? Let's go to the nearest convenience store."

They ended up at the nearest GS25 and found the place to be almost empty, as there were still four customers eating inside and outside. Their disguises made them a bit odd, but Jeongguk thought, *fuck it*.

"Baby, what do you want to eat?" He asked as he entered the store. Lisa was about to reply when he added, "Except for me, of

course." He winked.

Lisa let out a groan and replied, "I am not in the mood for that, idiot." She looked around at the store and her eyes lit up like a child. "Let me pick."

They walked around and chose a variety of food - spicy chicken feet, boiled pork, Jeongguk's favorite black bean noodle, white noodles, two triangular gimbaps, a lunchbox, sandwiches, and of course, water.

"Hey," He started, staring at all the food at their table, "You're allowed to eat these?"

Lalisa frowned, "Aren't you?"

He licked his lips, "I mean, I am, but aren't girl groups not allowed to eat that much before a comeback? Like, they put you on an intermittent fasting or something."

"That's very sexist of you." Lisa scoffed and mixed her noodles, "But yeah, that usually happens - not for me, though. I have fast metabolism." She proclaimed proudly and brought the noodles up to her mouth.

Jeongguk stared at her as her eyes rolled backward, "That good, huh?" She nodded, "Just wait until we finally fuck each other. Your pupils won't be returning anytime soon." He smirked.

"Nah, I think they'd rather just stay there and watch how lame you are in bed." She countered and took a bite of the chicken foot.

"Let's see then." He replied and took a slice of boiled pork. "Wow. This shit is legit."

"Let me try." She said. Unconsciously, Jeongguk took another slice and brought it up to her mouth, to which she accepted. The gesture surprised him, but it didn't seem to faze her. "Tastes good?" He asked, she responded by nodding.

He stared at her as she opened the infamous Inkigayo sandwich. "Really? An Inkigayo sandwich?" He asked disbelievingly while she took a bite of it.

"Hey," She chewed, "For idols who only comeback once a year, this sandwich is rare as hell. Cut me some slack."

Jeongguk snorted, "How's that going for you, by the way? Did you talk to your CEO?"

Lisa scrunched her nose, "No. Not yet." She analyzed the contents of the lunchbox, "However, the managers told us we won't be recording any songs after this comeback, which means our next comeback would be next year. Exciting, huh?"

He could sense the sadness in her voice, but he didn't know how to comfort her. They were eating for God's sake, he didn't want to hug her in the middle of a meal. It was just too awkward. "Is that why you went for a walk?" He asked instead.

"Mhm. It seems like a stupid reason but whatever." She waved off her hand, "Anyway, why did you send me food the other day?"

He looked away. The fact that he had sent her that made him embarrassed, not because he sent lunch to the Lalisa Manoban herself, but because of the effort he had to make just so she could get the food (he had to murder his pride to convince Jinhwan). They were just fake dating, but why the hell did he go to different lengths just for her? *She's a friend*, he convinced himself, *friends do that*.

"Yeah." He admitted, "I thought you were hungry."

"I was." Lisa replied, opening her water bottle, "Thank you so much, that meant a lot to me." She gave him a small smile, to which he returned.

"It's no problem. You're my *girlfriend*, after all." He winked.

"I'm kind of getting used to this dynamic, to be honest." She said out of a sudden. "It's... cool. You're supposed to be my boyfriend but you became my friend instead. That was unexpected."

"I told you, no one can resist me." He responded cockily. "Although, you might be wondering why I asked you to fake date me rather than do something else."

"Because you needed someone to realize how much of a jerk you are?"

"That and another." He took a slice of egg from the lunchbox that they shared, "My hyungs and I played a game a while back." She stared at him, "They told me that if I would be able find a girlfriend within the year, they'd buy me a new computer - a fancy one at that." He leaned back, "If I don't, however, I'd buy each of them the said computer, and it's expensive as hell."

Lalisa squinted her eyes and said nothing. "Okay." She shrugged, unfazed. "That's good. You're practical, I like it. You shouldn't waste your money on something that's unimportant."

"You're... not mad?"

"Why would I be?" She asked, "You seem to like me, and I'm starting to like you, so what's the problem in that?"

"Wait a minute..." He stopped. "You like me?" He couldn't believe it. She likes him? *You're friends, that's why*, he thought. *She didn't say love, just like*.

"As a friend." She clarified and bit her sandwich. "However," She tilted her head, "Why me?"

"Why you?" He repeated, to which she nodded. "I don't know. I think it was destiny."

Lisa laughed, "Kiss my ass."

"I will, if you'd let me."

"Why did you think it was destiny?"

"At the same moment I was looking for a fake girlfriend, you suddenly sent me your nudes." He smirked at her, "I was horny that time, too. So, I was able to find a girlfriend *and* satisfy my sexual needs in one sitting. Two birds with one stone."

Lisa grabbed a slice of pork and held it in front of him, "Open your mouth, baby." She said sweetly.

His heart fluttered. He knew he shouldn't feel this way as the consequences were severe, but then again, he thought, *fuck it*.

He opened his mouth and suddenly, she shoved her chopsticks in until it reached the back of his throat, causing him to choke.

"Oops, sorry." Lisa snickered and took a sip of her water.

And here I thought she made my heart flutter. He thought, coughing with tears brimming in his eyes. *Fucking hell.*

15

As soon as they finished eating, Jeongguk and Lalisa headed out to have a little walk on the way to BLACKPINK's dorm. Lisa initially disagreed, but Jeongguk wanted to be boyfriend material so she just let it be.

"You never told me," Lisa started, putting her hands inside her jean pockets, "Why did you go to the river? Is something bothering you?"

Jeongguk shrugged, "I'm having difficulty this comeback. My voice isn't cooperating and we had to redo a few recordings because of it."

"Have you had a vocal rest?"

"Nope." He shook his head. Lisa almost felt pity for him; she knows the feeling all too well. Voice problems were a serious matter, since idols are nothing without it (sad, but true). As an idol herself, she always made sure to drink tea after practices in order to keep her voice in a good condition - it works, *so far*. "You know how hard it is to get a proper vocal rest, especially when your comeback's near. It's physically impossible."

"Then stop talking." She told him simply. "Your vocal rest starts now."

"Hey," He called out, "Whenever we're together, vocal rest does not exist."

"Let's see about that. Tomorrow, you'll sound like a croaking frog."

He looked at her and smiled, "Darling, calm down. Don't worry. I can deal with this. I'll be fine."

She rolled her eyes, "Whatever you say. Don't blame me, though. I already warned you."

"Although," He added, ignoring her, "Never mind."

"Tell me."

"Okay, fine. But don't laugh, okay?"

"Sure."

"I think we might not be successful this comeback." He admitted, gloomy. "I think I'm going to fail the entire group because of my voice - because it's not perfect."

Lisa kept quiet, so he continued. "Our fans are expecting a lot

from us, a lot from *me*, since I'm the golden maknae or whatever, and I don't want to let them down. This is one of the biggest comebacks that we're going to have, especially that we're globally known now." His words were rushed, like he was speaking out every thought that came into his head, "We'll be representing the country, for God's sake, and here I am, suffering a vocal problem. I tho-"

"You're overreacting, Guk." She cut him off. "You're pressured, I know that. Everyone's watching each and everything that you do that makes you think like that and I know what that feels like. It's like they're waiting for you to make a mistake and use that against you, right?" He nodded. "But that's not the point. The point here is, if you keep thinking like that - about the negative things, you're going to fail. On the other hand, however, if you think about the positive things, then things will turn out to be positive.

"You have a vocal problem? Fine. Your voice sometimes needs a bit of rest, and that's normal for us idols. You can't expect a main vocal who sings majority of the time to have a perfect voice condition. It will go away soon, I know it. A week from now, you'd probably be singing a ballad or something for all I know. Everything you're experiencing right now will go away, trust me. Life gives us all these trials sometimes but it's not like it's going to stay forever. So, stop fussing and let's walk in peace." She finished and walked ahead, leaving him frozen on his spot.

Jeongguk stared at her in amazement. No other woman had ever talked to him like that except his mother. "You could be a motivational speaker or something."

"I was getting a headache by just listening to you." She lied, even though she was concerned for him and for herself as well. Coachella was nearing and she felt like she was going to burst in any moment. The pressure and the stress of being the first girl group to perform at Coachella was weighing down on her, and she didn't want to let hallyu down.

"That's too bad, but I suddenly felt motivated." He grinned, "Thank you, darling."

"Whatever, it's nothing." She shrugged it off.

"When will you be free again?" He asked, catching up with her. "I want to repay you back for that breakfast date but I don't know when will we be able to go out again."

"Repay my ass." Lisa rolled her eyes. "Don't mind it."

"Do you always walk home alone, darling? It's kind of creepy to be walking alone during the midnight. You need someone to come with you."

Her mouth twitched, "Sometimes. Most of the time though, our

company van drives us home, so it's all good. No need to worry, Junglebook."

They passed a stairwell that made Jeongguk halt his steps. "Darling," He called out to her, "Come here."

"Don't tell me you plan to have a quickie there. You like voyeurism or something?" She glanced at the stairwell and then back to him. "What are you up to?" She asked, walking to him.

Her eyebrows rose in surprise as he pulled out a camera from inside his hoodie. Lisa stared at it, as she didn't notice it before. "Let me take a picture of you." He offered, eyes twinkling.

"For what?"

He shrugged. "Memories, I guess?" She snorted and he added, "It's not everyday I walk you home, you know."

"Whatever." She went to the stairwell and sat down. At the same movement, she removed her mask. "Make sure I look good, yeah?"

"Ready. One, two, three..." His camera flashed. Jeongguk stood straight and climbed the stairs past her, "Another one here, please." She did as she was told, this time standing up. He took two shots and when he was done, he analyzed the photos.

"Let me see." Lisa peeked on his shoulder and stared at the pictures. It came out well, and she realized she actually looked good barefaced. Huh. She never actually thought she did. "Wow."

"You know," Jeongguk started, slowly turning his face to look at her, "You're really beautiful."

Lisa couldn't stop what she said next, "Even if I'm barefaced?"

"Especially if you're barefaced."

The atmosphere got awkward which made her immediately walk away from him. "Well, whatever. Let's go."

He chuckled from behind her, "No need to get so awkward, darling. It's the truth." He quickly walked to her side and said, "I'll send these via text later, yeah?"

"Of course." She nodded and put her mask on again. They were silent for a moment until Jeongguk started humming. "Hey, vocal rest remember?"

He grimaced, "Yes, ma'am."

A few minutes later, they reached the entrance of her apartment complex, the Bamseom Apartments. The lobby seemed to be empty, except maybe a person or two.

Lalisa turned back to face him and gave him a smile. "We're here. Thank you for tonight, Guk."

"Anything for you, darling." He smiled back, "You better get going. I'm not the one who has a 5 am practice later."

She rolled her eyes, "At least I won't sound like a frog tomorrow." Lisa gave him a little wave, "Bye, Junglebook."

"Bye, darling." He took a few steps back, "I'll see you soon."
THE PHOTOS THAT JK TOOK CAN BE FOUND IN THE MEDIA.

a/n: finals tomorrow, won't be able to update for two days. :)

16

MARCH 27, 2019

Music flooded her ears.

In her dreams, she was standing on the beach, eyes looking out to the vast sea beyond her. The wind was mercilessly blowing her hair, the coldness bringing a stinging feeling to her goosebumped skin. All the while, she didn't move - just stood still while her gaze was fixated on the scenery in front of her.

She licked her lips and was momentarily surprised when she tasted something salty. When she brought her hand up, she realized that she was *crying*, but the reason... she didn't know. Hastily, she wiped her tears and looked back out again, only to see the same tear-filled eyes staring back at her.

With a jolt, Lalisa suddenly sat up on her bed and immediately placed her hands on her head. She had been seeing the same dream for days and it was giving her a headache. *It was just a dream. Dreams don't have meanings. Nothing's going to happen.*

Still sleepy, she rubbed her droopy eyelids as her other hand tried to find her phone amidst the sheets.

Today was their rest day as it was her birthday. This was one of the good things of celebrating it, since their company was kind enough to give the girls a break whenever it was a member's special day. Though they don't do much, sleeping the entire day was already a gift for Lalisa.

She checked the time: 5:42 am. *No practices for today. No rehearsals. Time to-*

Her bedroom door suddenly burst open and the three of her members came in. Respectively: an overexcited Jisoo holding a chocolate flavored cake, looking as if she woke up hours ago, Chaeyoung with tangles in her hair, indicating that she just woke up, and Jennie, eyes barely open but still managing to smile despite her state. It was too cute to look at.

"Happy birthday, Lisa! Happy birthday, Lisa! Happy birthday, happy birthdaaaaaay," They sang - Jisoo being the loudest, Chaeyoung trying her best to exert energy into the song, and Jennie yawning every two seconds, "Happy birthday, Lalisaaa!"

"You guys shouldn't have." Her voice came out raspy and hearing

it made her clear her throat, "Thank you so much!" She smiled brightly and they all came to hug her - Jisoo leaving the cake at her bedside table.

"I had to wake up as soon as I can, you know." Jennie spoke, voice tired and eyes closed. "I rarely do this, but when it's for my members," She scoffed, "I'd wake up without a second thought."

Chaeyoung snorted, "Yeah, right, unnie. That wasn't what you said during Jisoo's birthday." The memory came back to her - Chaeng and her dragging Jennie out of bed just so they could greet Jisoo a happy birthday while she was thrashing like a madman. Instead of surprising the birthday girl, she surprised them instead as she heard Jennie's screams.

"Stop bickering now, children. Let's have Lisa make a wish." Jisoo held the cake again in front of her, and beamed excitedly, "Go on, make a wish, Lis!"

Lisa closed her eyes while snickering. *I wish I would go to the right path and be successful this year.* She blew the candle and at the same time, her members covered their noses.

"God, Lali, your breath stinks." Jennie gave her a disgusted look. "We should've let her brush her teeth before we gave her this, you know."

The birthday girl smirked, "Oh yeah?" She asked and within a second, smeared icing to the half of Jennie's face. "Got you."

Jennie's eyes widened, "Come here, you-" Lisa ran outside the room, not hearing the rest of her words.



At lunch, Jisoo prepared a bunch of Thai food that she made herself - with the help of her other members, of course. She wasn't allowed to help nor even watch them cook, so she just sat there at the dining table, occasionally glaring at them. *It's your birthday,* Chaeng said, *you shouldn't do anything... except maybe look dumb.*

"Lali, close your eyes." Chaeyoung giggled while walking towards her, "Don't open until I say so, okay?"

Lisa pretended to roll her eyes but on the inside, she felt giddy. Her unnies had never once attempted to do these things to her as they were all busy, but seeing them actually exert the effort made her heart so happy that it hurt.

She closed her eyes and heard footsteps and the sound of dishes being placed on the table in front of her. "Should I open them now?" She was getting impatient.

"Just a moment, just a moment..." Jennie muttered, utensils and glasses clanking. She heard a lid being lifted and a variety of aroma flooded the small kitchen. The smell made her stomach growl and she was about to protest when Jennie spoke again, "A sec, and

then... open them now."

She opened her eyes and what she saw made her jaw drop - literally.

In front of her were four Thai dishes, namely: Pad Thai, red curry, sesame chicken with what seemed to be *satay* sauce, Thai-style brisket, and rice.

"Did..." She licked her lips, still in shock, "Did you really make these?" The dishes looked so good that she couldn't believe it. They looked authentic, as if they came straight out of a Thai restaurant.

"Of course." Jisoo said proudly, grinning, "We had help from your mom, though. We didn't know how spicy you like your curry."

"That's nonsense, I like whatever." She hungrily stared at the food again, "Thank you so much, unnies. I'm very blessed to have you three." Lisa gave them a genuine smile, to which they returned. Jisoo pretended to act cocky, making them laugh.

"Well, what are we waiting for? Let's eat!"

■

1:05 pm

JEONGGUK

darling, good

morniiing

LALISA

good morning

to you too, gukkk

JEONGGUK

what's up?

LALISA

nothing much

sleeping the entire day

JEONGGUK

well i have practice so

just checking on you

talk to you later

darling

Lalisa turned off her phone and sighed. He didn't know that it was her birthday, thank God. At least she would have the entire day to herself. She could sleep, sleep, and sleep. *Heaven*.

Suddenly, her phone rang.

"Hello?" She answered nonchalantly without looking at the caller.

"Hey, darling." Jeongguk's voice sent chills through her body, but she didn't know why, "You gotta listen to what I say."

Frowning, she asked, "What? I thought you were in practice." She glanced behind her to see if her members were around, but they were nowhere to be found. Huh. They should be watching TV at

this hour.

"Shhh." He shushed her, "Here's what you're going to do," Lisa's brows scrunched together, "You have to go to your room, get ready, change your clothes, and meet me outside your apartment complex. Okay?"

It was all so sudden that she wasn't able to comprehend what he was saying at first. *Change? Meet outside?* "But I—" The call ended. "That fucking... ugh." She contemplated on following his instructions, but the guy seemed serious. Hesitantly, she went to her room and immediately scanned her closet.

She didn't really know what to wear. *What was the occasion, anyway?* Jeans and a shirt? Nah, boring. A dress? She wasn't feeling it. A skirt? Nope.

Finally, she just settled for a black blazer, a white sleeveless top, jeans, and knee high boots with heels. Hopefully she looked presentable enough.

Hurrying to her vanity table, she did a quick work of her brows. She dabbed blush on her cheeks and on her eyelids to serve as an eyeshadow. She also added a bit of dark brown to accentuate her eyes. Afterwards, eye liner, mascara, and matte lipstick - all under ten minutes. *Impressive.*

She called Jeongguk again. "Okay, Guk, I'm done. Where are you?"

The other line chuckled, "Go down from your apartment complex."

"But my unnies—"

"They're not going to mind you. Just come down."

Lalisa ended the call and went to the door. She checked for the second time if her unnies were around, but they seemed to be in their rooms. *I'm dead meat.* She thought as she grabbed her purse on her way out. Fortunately, no one was occupying the elevator so she had it all to herself.

What game is he playing? She thought as the elevator descended. She couldn't stop fiddling with her nails, all because of nervousness and a bit of excitement - but mostly nervousness.

The elevator finally stopped at the ground floor and opened.

Slowly walking, she went outside to the main entrance - but no one was there. *Where is he?*

Left with no choice, she went to the western wing of the apartment complex that was reserved only for celebrities who wished privacy. She felt dumb for not realizing this sooner. *He is Jeon Jeongguk, for God's sake. Of course he is going to use the private wing.*

She was right.

As soon as Lalisa caught sight of the stairs leading to the entrance of the wing, she saw him.

Jeon Jeongguk was grinning as he leaned on a sleek gray Lamborghini Aventador clad in dark colors from head to toe. He wore a dark gray turtle neck tucked in black fitted pants with a belt, along with a black trench coat, and a pair of black Dr. Martens.

He looked surprisingly good.

"Am I wearing the wrong thing or..." Lisa started as she climbed down the steps. She couldn't help but doubt her own clothes.

He chuckled and walked towards her, "No, no, darling. It's perfect. You look ravishing." He met her halfway and suddenly engulfed her into a hug, "Happy birthday."

Awkwardly, she wrapped her arms around his torso, "How'd you know it was my birthday?" She asked, frowning even if he couldn't see her. *He smells so good*, she thought, but cringed as she realized what she said.

"I just know." He responded as he pulled away, his other hand never leaving her waist. "Now, may I?" He gestured to the other side of the car - the front seat.

She rolled her eyes and smiled a bit as he opened the door for her. "You being a gentleman feels weird." She commented as she climbed inside the car.

"I'm a gentleman, alright. Although, I'm not that gentle in bed." He winked and closed the door. She snorted as he walked back to the other side of the car. "So," He started as he entered the driver's seat and closed the door, "What did you do for your birthday today?"

"My members made me Thai food and I was supposed to sleep all day but..." She trailed off and stared at him, "Here we are."

At the mention of her members, she grabbed her phone and sent a quick text to Jisoo, saying that she had somewhere to go to. *She's gonna kill me for leaving out of nowhere.*

"You know I wouldn't want to miss this, darling." He left the apartment complex and went to the main road. The Han River came to view and Lisa couldn't help but stare in amazement. This was her favorite part of being near the river - the view. It gives her peace.

"Where are we going?"

"You'll see."

She lightly slapped his arm, "Hey, Jeon Jeongguk. You're making me nervous."

Jeongguk threw his head back and laughed, "Relax, Lali. It's your birthday. I wouldn't do anything that you don't want."

Lisa hid her smile. "If you do, I'll scratch your car."

"You wouldn't do that, darling, would you?"

The drive was fifteen minutes long.

Lisa didn't know where the hell they were going but hey, when life gives you lemons, you got to make some lemonade.

All throughout that fifteen minutes, they'd talked about their recent activities, joked around, and took various pictures (her camera was in her purse, luckily). Jeongguk even managed to make her sing along with the radio, much to her embarrassment.

Why don't you sing more often? He'd asked. *Because they don't let me, that's why.* She'd answered.

I'll make you sing for me then. He then gave her a smile which she couldn't decipher. Was it a joke or did he just say it out of the moment?

"Are we here?" Lalisa asked, looking up at a nearly-empty building where they parked at. It looked like it came out from a horror movie, which gave her the shivers. "Is this where we're supposed to go?"

Jeongguk chuckled, "No, darling." He replied while opening the compartment. She watched in confusion as he took a velvet piece of cloth out and showed it to her. "Tada."

"What's that for?" She asked, "Don't tell me we're doing some sort of fifty shades here?"

"It's a blindfold, Lali. A *blindfold*." He deadpanned, "You gotta control your arousal, sweetheart. It's hard for me." He faked tsk. When she didn't reply, he asked, "Get it? *Hard* for me? Because I get hard?"

Lisa squinted her eyes.

"Okay, fine." He shifted in his seat so he could fully face her. "I'll put this around your head, okay?" He instructed, pulling her shoulders so her back was facing him.

"I'm getting nervous about this surprise of yours." She admitted as his fingers grazed her temples. He tied the cloth not too tightly and gave the knot a pat. "All done?" She leaned back on her seat.

"Yep." She could hear him fiddling with the compartment and something else. "Lis, what number is this?"

"The fuck am I supposed to know? You blindfolded me, duh." She snapped, "I can't see anything."

"That's the purpose of the blindfold, kitten." He pinched her nose and she tried to smack his hand, but failed ultimately. "That's a sad attempt for trying."

"At least I tried."

She felt the car move again. It drove straight, headed towards God knows where. Lisa could only wait in anticipation.

The car slowed and she felt Jeongguk park it once more. He turned off the engine and went out out, leaving her - or so she thought. Seconds later, her own car door opened and his hand held her own, leading her out.

"Wait a sec, darling." The car door closed from behind her. She felt his hands on the knot of the cloth, readying to pull it, "Three, two, one."

As soon as the blindfold was removed and she opened her eyes, the words *Brushes and Easels Artspace* greeted her.

"What..." She whispered and looked to the side to see him smiling softly at her, "What is this place?" She had never once stepped into this part of Seoul, and seeing this in front of her made her feel overwhelmed.

The building in front of them was at least two stories high, with modern exterior and the words *Brushes and Easels Artspace* displayed above the front door in wide, chunky letters. Brushes, canvasses, paints, and everything Lisa ever wished for can be seen from inside the building, which made her heart pump faster.

"You said you wanted to paint, right?" She nodded, "Yet you never have the time. So here we are now," He gestured to the building and put his hands in his pockets, "You're finally going to paint, Lali."

"I'm... I'm going to paint?" She asked incredulously, eyes wide, her words barely above a whisper. A rush of emotions filled her - enthusiasm, giddiness, anxiousness - that she didn't know what she was feeling. Her? *Painting*? "I-" She gulped, trying to find the right words, "This... Oh my, this is... I ca-"

"Technically, I'm also going to paint so it's not just yo-" Lisa surprised him with a bone crushing hug, "Ow!" She buried her face in his chest and smiled to herself.

"Thank you, Guk. You don't know how much this means to me." It has been her lifelong dream to paint, yet she was so busy with work and family that she wasn't able to actually try it for herself. Watching an abundance of art videos in YouTube had become a habit that sometimes, she even felt jealous.

She has always been inclined to arts since she was a child, although her parents made her focus on dance more hence the reason why she felt she had an unfinished business that needed to

be done. Her father had initially disapproved of her being involved in painting, but thank the heavens her mother was able to convince him otherwise. Because of his disapproval, it made her pursue this lifelong dream even more.

"Woah, calm down, kitten." Jeongguk chuckled and put his arms around her. "Thank God, I've finally done something right."

Lisa chuckled and pulled her head just a bit so she could stare at him, "I really, really am thankful, Guk."

The both of them stared at each other, both still entangled in a hug.

He was looking at her with pure adoration in his eyes that her cheeks turned pinker and she pulled away awkwardly before he could see it. "Let's go?"

"You first, m'lady." He dramatically waved his hand towards the entrance, making her roll her eyes playfully.

As soon as they entered, Jeongguk talked to the receptionist and they were immediately led to a room on the upper floor where there were already less than ten people inside.

"Wait..." She grasped his wrist, making him look at her worriedly, "They'd recognize us." The idea sent goosebumps down her spine. Her heart was pounding as she imagined the rumors, the scandals, the dozen articles if they'd both be seen together in public, attending an art class.

He glanced at the room again, still calm. Everyone's backs were on them as the entrance of the room was at the back - one fortunate thing. "They wouldn't. I gave them an NDA."

Lisa couldn't believe what he was saying, "You what?!" She whispered-shouted, "Are you crazy?"

"Yeah. I gave it to all of them." He scratched his head nervously, "What, you don't like it?"

"No, no. It's just that-" She looked away from him, shy, "You're really... the effort you did is just... I appreciate it."

He beamed, "What can I say? Its Jeon Jeongguk you're talking to." He grabbed her hand and led her inside, "Let's sit here." He suggested, going to the seats at the back part of the room.

The room wasn't that big, but it wasn't that small either. Ten people could only take the class at once, and they were the last ones to go in. Everyone in the room were minding their own business, no one even spared them a glance. This was one good thing about Brushes and Easels - the exclusivity, the reason why he chose this place.

"I'm nervous." Lalisa said as she sat down on the stool next to him. Even if she said that, she felt like jumping. She was too thrilled that she couldn't wait any longer. Staring at the canvas in front of

her made her want to tear up, but staring at the palette, the oil paint tubes, and the brushes made her want to sob.

"When we're done here," His eyes turned serious as he looked at her, "I want you to paint me like one of your French boys."

She kicked his foot, emitting a chuckle from him.

■

By the time they've finished, it was already past five in the afternoon.

Lisa was carrying her canvas with a huge smile on her face as she walked to the car. She had painted a silhouette of a forest with hansa yellow deep, dioxazine purple, cadmium orange deep, and a small amount of manganese blue as the sky color. She thought it was pretty mediocre, but she was a beginner so it was understandable.

The teacher taught them the basics like what brushes to use, how to properly paint, the different brushstrokes, how to varnish, and the components of the oil paint. She found it relatively hard at first, but in the end, she was able to develop her own techniques and applied them to her work.

Jeongguk, on the other hand, didn't have any problems at all. Given that he was good in everything that he does and he already has a background in the arts, he was at ease. Similar to her, he also asked the teacher questions on how to do this and do that, yet he still delivered.

Like he had said, everyone in the room including the teacher didn't mind them. They all did what they were supposed to do without judging or staring at both of them, which made her relax. She kept on opening her phone once in a while to see if there were articles or rumours going on about them two, but there were none.

"Where are we going next?" Lisa asked as soon as he got inside the car and turned on the engine.

"Dinner." Jeongguk replied simply and glanced at the rear view mirror, "Your painting looks amazing, by the way. But not as amazing as mine." His work, on the other hand, was a recreation of the painting in his short film back in 2016 called Begin. Lisa didn't want to admit it, but the man can be an artist if he wanted to.

"Well, yeah, I'm not exactly good at everything unlike you, am I?"

His chest puffed out a bit, "Everyone's good at something. It just so happens that I'm good at everything."

"Okay, I get it. Stop shoving it into my face, Mr. Jeon." She peeked at the darkening sky, "I forgot to ask. Is this really your car?"

"Uh, duh. Who else do you expect to own this baby?"

She stared at him from head to toe, "You look like the kind of

person that'll steal this."

He gasped dramatically, "Me? Steal?" His eyes bore into hers as he said, "I'd rather steal your heart instead."

She punched his arm. "Eyes on the road - and stop with those jokes, Guk. I'm about to hop off this car in a second."

■

They arrived at the Federation of Korean Industries building after a five-minute drive. What they were doing here? Lalisa had no idea.

Jeongguk parked the car directly in front of the building and gave her a mask and a hat. "Better be safe than sorry." He said as he put on his own as well.

He went out of the car first and as expected, opened the door for her. As soon as she got out, she realised that they were Yeoeuido-dong nearby the Han River which means that her apartment complex was just within a distance.

The both of them entered the glass doors - Lalisa looking back every once in a while. Jeongguk, on the other hand, headed straight to the elevator. She watched as he pressed level 50 and frowned.

"Level 50? That's too high up." She looked at him to find him already smirking. "What?"

"Just wait and see."

After minutes of uncomfortable silence, the elevator doors finally opened.

The first thing she saw were the plants. Then, in front of her was a cottage-like area designed like a farm - a private dining area of some sort. They both walked inside, Jeongguk ushering her by holding her waist.

To her left, beyond the window, was a panoramic view of the famous Han River and the other buildings surrounding Yeoeuido-dong. The view took her breath away and she yearned to see more, but Jeongguk led her to the other end of the hallway where the actual entrance was - much to her dismay.

"Good evening, sir, ma'am, may I assist you?" A woman dressed in white approached. She looked to be in her late twenties, with a kind smile and sparkling eyes.

"Reservation for Jeon Jeongguk, please." Lisa's head snapped to look at him. She couldn't believe that he just threw his name like that. They were in public. It was dangerous - especially for him.

The woman didn't even seem fazed, "Right this way, sir."

As she led them to the elevator again, she jabbed his ribs and whispered, "What, you gave them an NDA?"

"Good job, darling." He patted her head and snickered when she slapped his hand away.

Eventually, they were escorted to the 51st floor. The woman

assisted them to another set of glass doors that led to a greenhouse garden overlooking a much more breath-taking view of the river.

"If you need anything, just ring the bell," She gestured to the bell near the door, "And we'll come right away. The food will be served in just a moment."

"Thank you very much." Jeongguk nodded at her and she went on her way. "May I?" He offered her his hand and she took it while playfully glaring at him.

The both of them walked in a small pathway with fairy lights on both sides. It actually felt romantic as they were holding hands and walking the path as if they were together.

"This is so beautiful." She commented as she looked at the fairy lights surrounding them. "Do you..."

"Hm?" He hummed, looking at her.

Lisa felt her cheeks go hot, "Do you... um. Do you want to take a photo together?"

He smiled at her, eyes crinkling, "Hey, stop acting like that."

"Like what?"

"Of course I want to take a picture together." He finally answered, taking out his phone. He opened the camera app instantly while she removed her hat and mask, him doing the same afterwards.

"One, two, and... three." The both of them smiled, Jeongguk capturing the moment. *Click!* "That was a really good angle, huh?" She asked, staring at the photo with a small smile on her face.

"I know, right? If someone were to catch us together, they'd better use this photo. We look good together."

"You wish."

Jeongguk continued to walk with her until they reached a smaller cottage similar to the one she saw at the previous floor. Only this time, there was only one table with a lit candle and two chairs.

He pulled out a chair for her, making Lisa snort. "Wow, such a gentleman."

"You haven't even seen the half of it yet."

Not a little while later, a waiter arrived with their appetisers: a plate of bread with balsamic vinegar and olive oil, and a glass of wine.

"Oooh, fancy." Lisa rubbed her hands together and took a piece of bread. She dipped it into the vinegar and the oil and smiled in satisfaction as she took a bite. "So good."

"Just wait until you taste their pasta. It's to die for." He told her, sipping on the wine.

"Hey," She tilted her head to the side, "You told me you had practice."

"Mhm."

"Did you really?"

Jeongguk bit the inside of his cheek, "Technically, yes - but I made up an excuse not to go." He didn't look back at her when he said that. Instead, he looked at the bottle of wine.

"Wow. I could never. Just for-" She gestured at the cottage, "This?"

"Yeah, well, you're my *girlfriend*. If we want to make this as memorable as possible, let's try to make it seem like it's real." His eyes met hers, "You've also become my friend, you know. Is it not appropriate for me to treat you out on your birthday?"

Lisa waved her hand, "Okay, okay. I get it now. No need to get defensive. Sheesh."

The waiter arrived a few seconds later holding a tray full of food. He placed a total of four dishes in the table and left, but not before saying, "Enjoy your dinner."

"What do we have here?" Her mouth was practically watering now as she looked at the pasta and the steak. "They all look yummy."

Jeongguk leaned forward on his seat, "This one, darling." He pointed to the pasta with the prawns, "Is the King Prawn Tomato Linguine. This-" He gestured to the burger, "Is the Caprese Burger with French Fries and the two of the main dishes here are their special: the Han-u Sirloin Steak."

"You seem so knowledgeable about this. Have you eaten here before?"

"Nope. Just did some research." He winked at her, "Let's eat?"

■

The dinner went really well. Jeongguk and Lisa gushed over the food, something she thought they'd never do. It felt like she'd known him for years now, judging by how comfortable she felt when she was with him. There was no awkwardness, no moment of uncomfortable silence. Hell, they'd even tried to reenact the spaghetti scene of the famous *Lady and the Tramp* movie just for laughs - without the kiss, of course. In the end, they'd both looked incredibly stupid.

Lisa was standing near the window overlooking almost the half of Seoul when she heard Jeongguk's footsteps from behind her. He excused himself to use the bathroom a while ago and she was surprised that he took so long. *Boys usually take about a minute or so.*

"Hey, what to-" As soon as she turned around, she was greeted by the sight of him holding a strawberry buttercream cake with candles all around. "Jeongguk, the hell-"

"Happy birthday to you, happy birthday to you! Happy birthday, happy birthdaaay," He walked towards her with a huge grin on his

face, "Happy birthday to youuu!"

"Hey, you're supposed to be on vocal rest, remember?" She scolded him yet she couldn't deny that his voice sounded lovely even if he was just singing a mere birthday song. *The heck, Lalisa. Wake up.* She thought.

Jeongguk rolled his eyes and said, "Make another wish, darling." He looked at her with such excitement that urged her to do what he said.

"Okay, okay." *I wish to become better than I am now. I hope that Jeongguk here will become even more successful in the future and also, I hope he stops being cocky.* "Done!"

"Okay, now blow me." She pinched his arm, making him snicker, "I mean, blow the candles." She did as she was told and clapped her hands together in gladness as soon as the candles were blown.

"You didn't have to do that, you know."

"Well, I wanted to." He suddenly straightened his clothes and cleared his throat, "Now, may I have this dance?" For the nth time that day, he offered his hand to her. *Huh, what's with all the gentleman act today?*

Her eyebrows knitted together, "Dance?" Nonetheless, she took his hand and he led them both back into the pathway and stopped in the middle. It was much darker this time now since an hour or two had passed after they'd arrive here, which meant the lights were more brighter and more lovelier.

She watched in confusion as he pulled out his earphones and his phone from his pocket.

"Since we don't have speakers, this will do." He plugged the earphones in the phone, putting one in his own ear and the other on hers. Because of that, their faces inched together, which made Lisa blush yet again.

He pressed something in his phone, and the instrumental of a song started playing. Silently, Jeongguk returned his phone into his pocket and placed her hands around his shoulders while he placed his hands on her waist. He looked at her, asking for permission, worry evident in his eyes.

"It's okay." She whispered, looking into his orbs, not even finding the courage to actually speak as the distance between them lessened. The male in front of her smiled softly and moved to the beat as the first verse began.

Tonight, I'll send you the firefly from that day

"Through the Night." He spoke softly, staring at her. "The song title is *Through the Night* by IU."

Lisa thought it was almost impossible to stare at anything else at the moment. The both of them were in a much different vibe than a

while ago - everything felt soft... mellow... almost *romantic*. She didn't know what else to say, so she just nodded as a response.

I remember our first kiss

"Does this make you uncomfortable?" He asked, tilting his head.

She lightly shook her own, "No." She tried to look at something other than his eyes, but found nothing.

"Then why are you blushing?" Lisa tried to lower her head but he took her chin in his hands. "Don't. I want to see you."

I close my eyes whenever I can and go to the farthest place

"I've..." She licked her lips, "I've never done this before." She admitted shyly.

Just like letters on the sand where waves were

"What do you mean?" He questioned, confusion in his eyes, "You've never danced with somebody else?"

I always miss you, miss you

All the words in my heart

"Well, not this close." She lightened. "Did you?"

I can't show them all to you

But, it's that I love you

He chuckled quietly, "No, never."

"Then where'd you learn this idea?"

"Don't laugh, okay?"

"I promise."

"I saw it in a drama once. Thought it'd be nice to do it in your birthday."

Her eyes twinkled, "That's sweet of you."

How can I be so lucky to have met you, who is such a blessing

He shrugged, "I mean, it's Jeon Jeongguk. You should expect the best."

"Starting from now on, I'd keep that in mind."

"You better."

If we're together now

Ah, how great it'd be

"Why did you choose IU?" Lisa asked. She was wondering what they looked like if somebody was staring at them. They probably looked like weirdos with earphones on and dancing to nothing, but for them both, they were in their own little world.

"She's kind of my favorite singer." He sheepishly replied, not daring to meet her eyes.

"Kind of?"

"Well, my favorite singer, of course."

I feel you'll disappear to a far off place

"Although," He added, "We haven't really interacted that much. I've idolised her since I was younger, but I haven't had the chance

to really talk to her face to face."

*In my diary, all the words
I can't show them all to you
It's that I love you*

"Chaeyoung and her talked before." She shared, "IU wanted to do a collab with her since she found her voice to be unique."

"Well, I wish I was Chaeyoung." His lips turned to a thin line. "It'd be nice to just talk to her, just for once, you know?"

Lisa snorted softly, "Nah, Guk. You're one of a kind." She said before she even thought of it. As soon as the words left her mouth, she immediately regretted it. *Oh no, maybe he thinks I'm weird or something.*

Tonight, I'll send the glow of a firefly to somewhere

"What did you just say?" He asked, confused.

"Nothing." She responded before he even finished asking. *Thank God he didn't hear it.*

"I doubt it." Lisa could only gulp.

Next your window

I hope it's a good dream

The song slowed and Lisa couldn't help but glance at his lips, which was just mere inches away.

"Jeongguk," She started after seconds of not speaking. Her eyes turned back to his and found him staring at her lips as well, which made her unconsciously lick them.

"Mmm?" He hummed, eyes not leaving.

"Thank you for today." She gave him a soft smile. Lisa then stood on her tippy toes and pressed her lips to his cheek, making him freeze on the spot. "This will always be in my heart."

Jeongguk stared at her with an emotion in his eyes that she couldn't describe, "Anything for you, darling."

With that response, she embraced him once more and felt him smile in her hair.

THE PICTURES IN THE MEDIA ARE WHERE JK AND LISA WENT.

NDA: NONDISCLOSURE AGREEMENT (*a contract through which the parties agree not to disclose information covered by the agreement.*)

a/n: hello, sorry that the update took so long. i wanted to make sure that this chapter would be a little special since lisa's birthday is being celebrated and her actual birthday is near. ALSO this chapter has 4k + words TF the longest chapter i've written - ever.

anyway, thank you to those who are supporting NUDES! i know i still have a lot to fix, but i will try my best to improve even more as i continue to write this book.

hope you're enjoying this :D

18

MARCH 28, 2019

"And last, five, four, three, two, and one." Hoseok clapped his hands and shouted, "Good job, everyone! Let's take a ten minute break and do another run for *Dionysus*."

The members scattered off to different directions, Jeongguk immediately heading to the table where their bags were. He took five gulps of water and was still breathing heavily as he opened his phone.

7:51 am

LALISA

good morning to you,
too, guk

He smiled as he read the text. The memories of last night replayed in his mind - her kissing his cheek (*genuinely*), their hug before entering the Artspace and after the dinner, him driving her back to her apartment complex and hearing her say, "Goodnight, Junglebook. Eyes on the road and rest well, yeah?"

Even if he planned her birthday in such a short period of time, yesterday was still a success seeing as how she reacted to the paint workshop and the dinner. Thank goodness, he actually was able to ask help from her members - even if they didn't trust him.

Jisoo and Chaeyoung were fine, they were nice to him and were pleasantly surprised when they found out about their "relationship." Jennie, on the other hand, was who he was scared of.

The way she talked and the way she texted was what you can call... *formal*. She types in correct spellings, accurate punctuation marks, and addressed him formally. This was what intimidated him the most. He knew he shouldn't be shocked about their reactions because all he just did was get Jisoo's number from Taehyung and texted her with the lines, *hey, it's me jeon jeongguk, tae's co-member. i would like to ask permission to borrow your member lisa for her birthday as she is my girlfriend. thank you.*

He regretted saying that afterwards as Jisoo called the number not a second later. Jeongguk was bombarded with *how did you meet, how did you fall in love, are you sure you aren't going to hurt her, and we should eat dinner together.*

Taehyung later then asked him what it was all about. Good thing he deleted the sent text to Jisoo before he could even read it. *Just a quiry, Tae.*

"Hey, what are you smiling about?" Jimin popped out of nowhere, peeking on his shoulders. He immediately hid the phone in his pocket before he could see it. "Lalisa?" *Holy shit*, Jeongguk thought as he tried to find an excuse.

"Oh, um, hyung, it's just my friend." He faked a smile, which turned into a grimace. "You know, '97 liners and stuff."

Jimin squinted his eyes and grinned, "EVERYONE! Kookie has a *girlfriend!*" He shouted on the top of his lungs. The other five members all snapped their heads to them.

Fuck. "What? NO! It's just a fri—" He was instantly tackled to the ground as his phone was removed from his pocket. "Hey, hey! Don't read that!"

"Lalisa, huh?" Namjoon tilted his head as they all tried to peek on his phone which was in Seokjin's hand. "Whose Lalisa? An idol?"

Jimin shrugged, still holding him down, "He did say it was from the '97 liners, so possibly an idol."

Taehyung came to a realization, "You mean Lalisa? As in the *Lisa* from Blackpink?" All of them turned to look at him, who smiled sheepishly. "Oh no, you didn't. That's why you called Jisoo, huh?"

"Yes, I did, so let go of me and give me back my phone." He struggled to stand up, but to no avail. "What?"

"Is she really your girlfriend?" Yoongi asked, silencing them all. "Just genuinely curious."

"Uh..." He started, "Yes?"

Hoseok scoffed. "I don't believe you."

"You know," Jin spoke, "If that is true, we owe him that gaming computer." His hyungs groaned and some rolled their eyes. "Now pay up."

"Wait," Hoseok stopped, "How'd we know she's *really* your girlfriend?"

"Hyung, he literally has no female friends that text him everyday except Lisa." Jimin deadpanned, "Besides, he's always smiling whenever he texts her. That's one obvious proof."

Hoseok still didn't buy it, "FaceTime her."

Jeongguk frowned, "What? Why?" He knew his hyungs didn't want to buy him the computer, as to why Hoseok was asking for evidence. He just prayed Lisa would play along. "You know what, nevermind. Give me my phone."

Taehyung and Jimin let go of him and he promptly grabbed the phone from the latter. He went to FaceTime without delay and contacted his *girlfriend*. "Here goes..."

"Hey, Junglebook. What's up?" Lisa's voice echoed off the wall. His members distanced themselves from behind him just so they couldn't be seen in the frame, "Why'd you call?"

"Oh, uh, hey, darling." He heard Jin snort, along with Yoongi muttering *darling, really?* "Nothing. What are you up to today?"

Lisa shrugged, "Nothing much. Want to date?" She joked while wriggling her brows.

Thank the heavens! "Nah, I have practice. Don't you?"

She scrunched up her nose, "Actually I do. Say hi to Chaeng." The camera moved to Chaeyoung who was sitting beside her.

"Hey, Jeongguk!" Chaeyoung smiled, to which he returned with a *hi, Chaeng*. Lisa had been in awe when she knew her members knew about them both. Jisoo had practically yelled *how was your date with Jeongguk?* when she came back from yesterday night. Thankfully, they didn't ask her to elaborate or else it would've been embarrassing.

"Jennie and Jisoo are over here, dancing." Lisa turned the camera to both girls, giving Jeongguk and the boys a view of the practice room. Surely enough, Jisoo and Jennie were practicing the choreography in the middle of the room.

"Wow, you all look very busy. When's the teaser coming out?" He asked, relaxed now that his members finally have proof. "When will I get to see my *girlfriend* perform again?"

Lisa rolled her eyes, "Very soon. We also have a Coachella performance coming up so we're a bit tight on the practice."

He frowned, "That's days away, right?" She nodded, "Don't forget to drink water and rest well, darling. Don't overwork yourself." Hoseok snickered.

"I could say the same to you too." Lisa momentarily glanced up and talked to somebody, "Ah, I have to go now. We have to do an entire run for Coachella. Let's talk again later, yeah?"

"Sure. Bye, darling."

"Bye, Junglebook." The call ended.

"There's the proof you wanted." He said with a smug smirk.

Namjoon crossed his arms, "I guess it's true then. Everyone, pay up now."

"Wait," Taehyung said, "I thought they were advertising Samsung? Why are they using Apple?"

Yoongi sighed, "Not everyone obeys the rules, Tae. They have a dating ban but Jeongguk here is dating one of their members." He turned to him, "Say, is YG allowing collaborations for the girls? I think Jennie's rap skills would be necessary for my song."

Jin smacked his head, "You think you're being slick, huh? Give me the money first so we could buy Kookie here his computer."

"Hey, Guk." Hoseok went to him, "Be careful, okay? If both companies find out about this, it won't be pretty. We have to keep this just within ourselves."

"Yes, hyung." He nodded. He knew his members would keep this thing a secret, as well as Lisa's. He was thankful for that.

"Don't be obvious, you both."

"I know that." Jeongguk stood up and smirked, "Anyway, just be sure to send the computer at the Golden Closet tomorrow. 8am, sharp."

19

MARCH 30, 2019

8:12 pm

JEONGGUK

i'm so pissed.

LALISA

is it about your
hyungs again

JEONGGUK

YES!!

i can't believe
they tricked me
like that

i thought i was finally
going to have that
gaming computer
as soon as possible

but they just had
to leave a note
saying "bitch you
thought" at my
studio yesterday

who does that???

LALISA

uh you told me
that a hundred
times already

your act probably
wasn't that believable

i mean, jennie is
still suspicious

JEONGGUK

really? i guess
we should try
harder????

LALISA

yeah i guess so

i think they won't
buy that computer
unless you've really
proven yourself

JEONGGUK

i guess

LALISA

is the computer
really that good

JEONGGUK

IT'S THE BEST

it isn't even out yet
but the company told
me they'd be giving
it to me if i pay ten times
the amount

LALISA

you're a joke

JEONGGUK

but i have the best
computer in the world
so

i'm a cool joke



LALISA

you realize you're
being tricked right

JEONGGUK

nahhhh

LALISA

meanwhile
my nudes
how are they doing

JEONGGUK

here in my gallery
they're going on
tour with me

LALISA

hey!!!
you better keep
your end of the
deal or else

JEONGGUK

yes ma'am

LALISA

anyway

my members
they gave me
a deal, just like
yours did
after they knew
about us

JEONGGUK

mhm what is it

LALISA
they said that
if we are able to
last three months
without being caught

i'd be exempted
from doing chores
for a year

if we don't, i'll
do all the chores
for a year

fUcK

JEONGGUK

why do the youngest
always get the hard
choice

it's difficult for us
too yanno

LALISA

I KNOW IT'S SO
INFURIATING

i tried to tell them
that it was pointless
but jennie is scary

JEONGGUK

what's the point
of the deal though

LALISA

remember that i told
you i've never had a
boyfriend before and
they kept on teasing me
now they are all frustrated
because i have one

because they've made
bets between themselves
about me and my love life
waaaay before this started
chaeng won, ofc but
jen didn't want to lose so
they've made another bet
to compensate

JEONGGUK

that's confusing
what's up with bets
anyway

LALISA

i know
we have to
try harder
btw
you might want to
wait for my teaser
tomorrow

JEONGGUK

IT'S GOING OUT?!!!?

LALISA

YEEESSSSS I'M SO
EXCITEEEED CJKDKS

JEONGGUK

yo I've waited years
for this i can't believe it

██████████

LALISA

I'M CRYIIING
wait wdym you
waited

you're a blink?

JEONGGUK

uhhh no
tae is though
jin and namjoon too

LALISA

right
JEONGGUK
goodluck darling!!!
i'll try to wait for it
video teaser or photo?

LALISA

it's a secret

JEONGGUK

awwww

LALISA

hehe

dinner yet?

JEONGGUK

nope

which reminds me

i'll eat first

LALISA

okay

eat me

jk

JEONGGUK

how the tables

have turned

LALISA

that's just a

joke tho

but whatever

i hope you choke

JEONGGUK

that's so sweet of

you, darling

brb

LALISA

□

a/n: quick question, is the story going too slow or too fast? i wanted this to be a slow burn fic but i dunno. hehe

also, be safe, everyone! ❤

20

APRIL 6, 2019

12:00 am

JEONGGUK

darling!! sorry

i just finished

rehearsals

saw your music

video a while ago

by the way

IT WAS SOOO GOOD

your rap part? liiit

the flow was fireee

LALISA

hey.

you sound weird

JEONGGUK

heyyy

even yoongi was

impressed

tae, jin, and joon

practically fought

for the TV as we

tried to find the mv

they all said it

was very good

although we haven't

listened to the mini

album yet

LALISA

thanks, guk.

JEONGGUK

what's wrong?

you seem off

LALISA

nothing.

i just don't feel

like talking about it.

JEONGGUK

no no

you need to talk
about it

so you could
let it out

tell me

LALISA

no, it's fine.

i can handle it.
thank you for
the feedback, guk.
i appreciate it. :)

JEONGGUK

okay

if you say so
congratulations!



LALISA



2:12 am

LALISA

guk

where are you?
can i talk to you
members are asleep
need someone to talk
to right now

2:13 am

1 MISSED CALL FROM LALISA

1 MISSED CALL FROM LALISA

2:15 am

3 MISSED CALLS FROM LALISA

2:16 am

LALISA

jeongguk

please

JEONGGUK

darling, i'm so
so sorry i just
woke up

what's wrong?

Jeongguk rubbed his barely open eyes and hurriedly pressed the

call button just so he could talk to the girl. Thank goodness his phone wasn't on silent or else he would've slept through the whole thing.

"Hello? Lali, what happened?" He asked worriedly as soon as the call was picked up.

Heavy breathing could be heard from the other line. A few seconds had passed until she spoke, "Guk. I need to talk to you right now. No one else is awake."

Her voice sounded like she just finished crying, which concerned him, "I'm here, darling. Talk to me."

"Can you," She sniffed, "Can I go to your apartment?"

Jeongguk thought about it, "Okay, sure. I'll see you in 15?" Their apartment complex were not too far away from each other, as the both of them are situated near the Han River. Blackpink is currently staying at the Bamseom Xi while BTS is at the Hannam Hill - both in Yongsan-gu.

"Okay." The call ended. He slumped back on the covers and closed his eyes for a few seconds before going to the bathroom to fix himself. He was sure that whatever she was going to say, it wasn't pretty.

▪

"Here, darling. Just put your shoes there and let's head to my room after." He instructed as Lisa, still wearing pajamas and a messy bun, came inside the apartment. He thought she might be uncomfortable by the idea of talking to him in the living room when any member might come out and see them together - not that it wasn't allowed, but it was in the middle of the night. They might find it odd.

Lisa did as she was told and looked at him when she was done. Up close, he could see that her eyes were red-rimmed from crying, but he didn't know the reason why. Not yet.

He didn't ask about it as he led the way to his bedroom. Jeongguk opened the door, letting her in first, before entering and closing it.

"What's wrong, Lis?" He asked first, breaking the silence.

Lisa chuckled, "Don't you just hate it when you've worked on something hard for months... and then someone just comes in and discredits all your hard work with a mere sentence?"

He sat beside her on the bed, "Antis again?"

"Yeah." She responded quietly, "I should get used to it by now, right? But I can't." Sniffing, she added, "They've told me a million times to stop reading the comments - but it's so hard. I wanted to see the fans' reactions but... I see something else instead."

He kept quiet, wanting to let her talk.

"At first, I actually did ignore them. I thought, *oh, this is just*

normal because we just recently debuted, but as time passed by, I realised I was wrong. It got worse. The racist comments were the worse of them all - as if it was my fault that I was Thai and I just look like this." Lisa took a deep breath, "Sometimes," She wiped her cheek - he realised she was crying now, "Sometimes I wish I hadn't come here, you know? Everyone kept telling me to return to Thailand and just work there because they don't want me here, and sometimes... I've considered it. Just so the hate could stop.

"They even had this petition to remove me from the group," Lisa chuckled, but it was obvious it was hurting her, "For BLACKPINK's popularity, they said. I almost signed it, to be honest. Don't know what I was thinking but hey, at least I didn't.

"The hate also took a toll on me too, just so you know. I've started eating less since that racist remark, because I thought, *maybe if I were thinner and smaller, maybe they'd finally accept me.* But I was so stupid." Lisa played with her fingers, "Jisoo found out, and now she makes sure I eat three times a day and is always watching me like a hawk.

"However, the reason why I don't open up to my members is... well... they don't get hate that much. It's just me." She admitted, embarrassed, "It'd be awkward to open up to them when they don't experience the same thing... I'd also be giving them more things to think about and I didn't want to be in their way."

Jeongguk didn't know what to say. He also experienced hate before, but not as worse as this. Telling someone to go back to their country? Wow. That's crossing the line.

"It's okay if you don't say anything. I just wanted to let my feelings out." Lisa smiled reassuringly at him with tears streaming down her cheeks. The sight made his heart hurt. He didn't like it when his friends cry as he didn't know what help to offer them.

"No, no." He shook his head, "All I've really got to say is... those people who sent you the comments? They're *nothing*. They're just idiots who have nothing better to do than bully someone behind a computer. Compare yourself to them," He fully faced her, "You're an idol - you've achieved records that not everyone can achieve, you've got the talent, the looks, the attitude, you've got everything. You deserve to be here. Why do you think Blackpink is globally famous? Because of the four of you, because of your talents. Why do you think Blackpink got invited to Coachella? Because you're unlike any other. Why do you think you're the most popular member? Because you're extraordinary. You've captured the attention of many ever since your debut.

"Things like these, they make some people jealous. They don't have what you have, hence why they're doing what they can to ruin

you, to make you think you are not worthy. And look at you," He gestured to her, "It's working, Lali, when it shouldn't be. You shouldn't be crying or thinking about the negative comments. I know you know that you deserve to be here as much as anyone else. Say, do you even know someone who left her country at the age of 14 and went to Korea without knowing how to speak Korean and was prohibited from speaking in English? Who learned to be independent because no one was there to care for her? Hell, when I was 14, all I did was play computer games after school.

"Not everyone can do what you do, Lalisa, so keep that in mind." He finished, frustration radiating off him. He wanted to let the girl know how deserving she was, as he was in this state years ago, when he was still starting in BTS.

Lisa looked at him in shock. "Guk.. I don't know what to say."

"You don't need to say anything."

"Where did you learn that?" She asked, tilting her head. Jeongguk then realised that her tears were dry now, and all that's left were the wetness on her pajama shirt.

"Learn what?"

"About me leaving Thailand when I was 14 and me being prohibited from speaking in English."

Crap. "Oh, um. Taehyung told me." It was a lie though, he has always been a long time fan ever since their debut. However, the lack of comebacks made him lose interest, hence why when he met Lisa, he wasn't that excited.

"Really? Nice." Lisa commented. "I'm sorry for being a crying mess, by the way. I'm just... it's overwhelming." She looked down.

"Why'd you come here though?" He asked, before realizing what it meant, "I mean, we could talk things through at an isolated cafe or whatever but... why here?"

She rubbed her nape, "Uh, yeah, about that." Nervously chuckling, "I was actually planning to... let my frustration out by... *other things*." She cleared her throat, "But now I couldn't, because uh... what you said... really lifted my spirits up."

Oh. Oh. "So that's why." He felt awkward, "I'm sorry if I didn't meet your expectations."

"No, it's fine." Lisa shook her head. "It's okay, it's much better this way."

"Um, if y-you want... we can..." *God, why am I stuttering?* "Do... you know."

She laughed awkwardly, "Maybe next time... when I'm not crying."

"I can make you cry, too, though. Not just from sadness." He winked, not sure where this surge of confidence came from. The girl

in front of him raised her brows.

Lisa suddenly smirked. "Oh yeah?" A challenge.

Oh, God. He thought, gulping. The mood changed quickly.

"Although," She added, scooting closer, "I think I'm still a *bit* frustrated. Can you take care of that?" The sadness in her eyes was slowly disappearing, replaced by a mischievous glint.

Jeongguk cleared his throat and grinned, "Gladly."

Lisa leaned in, both faces inches away. He held in his breath, nervous, as their lips brushed against each other. *Here goes nothing.*

"You know what," She spoke, leaning back again, "Maybe next time."

He watched in shock as she stood and went to the door knob. "You're such a tease-"

"Thank you for your words. Goodnight, Kookie." She blew him a flying kiss and left the room, leaving him a dry and high mess.

21

ALL TIME ZONES ARE IN KST

APRIL 6, 2019

6:00 am

JEONGGUK

guess who you
left dry and hard
last night

LALISA

hm? who
JEONGGUK

me

LALISA

hahahahahaha
i'm sorry

JEONGGUK

you don't
sound like it

☺

LALISA

hahahahaha

JEONGGUK

anyway we're
going to bangkok
be jealous

LALISA

awww lucky you

JEONGGUK

what do you want
me to buy for you

LALISA

wait what

really???

JEONGGUK

yes really now
tell me before
i change my mind

LALISA

coffee beans

hehe

JEONGGUK

you don't want

a diamond earring

or something?

LALISA

you're an idiot

JEONGGUK

i could give

you the world

if you wanted to

you know

lol jk

i'd try to

remember that

LALISA

you sound like

a romantic or

something

anywhooo

while you're there,

you should try

the green papaya

salad or som tum

and then tom

yum goong, too

JEONGGUK

okay darling

thank youuu

LALISA

we have a performance

at mbc in a bit

take care

text me when

you land

bye bye



JEONGGUK

goodluck darling!!

byeee □



11:32 am

JEONGGUK

we just landed
woohoo
heading to the
hotel rn
and then going
to the stadium
to practice and
preparereee

▪□

12:56 pm

LALISA

i look like
this atm
[LALISA SENT A PHOTO]
photo's a bit
blurred but meh
you'll see it
goodluck on
the concert
junglebook!!!

▪□

APRIL 7, 2019

2:12 am

JEONGGUK

concert's finishedddd
back at the hotel
you look good
darling
nice hair
i'm in love
jk
gotta sleep now tho
my knees are
about to give up
goodnight!

▪□

7:34 am

LALISA

morning
off to sbs
yet again
goodluck on
your concert
boo!!!

take care

ttyl

■□

12:30 pm

JEONGGUK

hey

just woke up
heading to the
stadium in a
bit after breakfast
goodluck darling :)

■□

APRIL 8, 2019

1:35 am

JEONGGUK

i am so tired

LALISA

wassuppp

JEONGGUK

oh you're awake?

LALISA

no i'm asleep

JEONGGUK

haha very funny

i'll be going
back to korea
later in the
morning

LALISA

that's great!

JEONGGUK

maybe we can
meet in the aft
so i can give you
your coffee beans

LALISA

you need to
rest junglebook

JEONGGUK

it's just a
quick meeting
nothing else

LALISA

mmkay

you said so

where

JEONGGUK

at the park?

LALISA

our disguises

better be good

i got to sleep

now though

JEONGGUK

sure sure

goodnight darling

don't let the

bed bugs bite

LALISA

goodnight jungoo

■

Lalisa sat down at the park bench, hair gathered in a bun and inside a beanie. Her disguise was just something she conjured within three minutes: an oversized shirt under a hoodie, sweatpants, and a mask. It was obvious, but she hoped she'd be able to fool everybody.

"Hi, darling," A raspy voice sounded from her left. She turned and saw Jeongguk, wearing all white from head to toe. He had his hair tied into what seem to be a man bun and like her, he was also wearing a mask. *Hmm, not bad.*

"Hey, Guk. How are you?" She asked as soon as he sat down beside her. "You look like you're about to sleep at any moment."

He scoffed, "Not really. I'm fine. You?"

"Same thing." She watched as he held up a paper bag in front of her.

"Your coffee beans. Ta da!" He said unenthusiastically.

She chuckled, "Thanks, Guk." Holding it with her hands, she added, "Although, I'm actually going to Thailand tomorrow for our Samsung event."

"Oh, really?" He asked, "When will you be coming back?"

"April 11th," She scrunched her nose, "But in the afternoon, we'd be going to America for Coachella so it's a whole lot of jetlag."

"Wow, look at you, all busy and stuff." He put his arm around her shoulders. "How does it feel to be an idol again?"

"Hmp. I'd prefer this over modelling anytime." Looking at him, she jokingly said, "Hey, don't miss me too much, okay?"

He scoffed, "Who said I was gonna miss you?" She rolled her eyes, "Besides, we're going to go to the US, too, you know, for our SNL."

"You're finally a global celebrity, huh."

He grinned, "With a face like this, of course I am."

"Well, if that's the case, maybe you can drop by on Coachella and see us?" Lisa trailed off. "But I don't know. Depends on you."

The guy seemed to consider it. "Let's see if my managers allow me."

"Let's hope they will."

It was silent for a moment, until Jeongguk spoke again, "I've got to go now, darling. I feel like my eyes are about to close anytime soon."

"I told you you needed rest but you just had to insist."

"I just wanted to see you, Jesus Christ."

Lisa blushed at his directness. "Whatever..." She tried to bite back, but it came out as a mutter, "I'll drop you off your apartment then."

"Hey, I'm supposed to drop you off. Not the other way around." He protested but she shook his head and grabbed his hand.

"I'm not the one who needs rest, you know. Look at you," She gestured to his almost closing eyes, "You look drunk. Let's go."

Like a child, he pouted, "Okay. Fine."

Lisa could only hide her smile as she dragged him down the sidewalk and waited for a taxi.

"I guess this will be the last time we see each other in person." He commented, hands in his pockets.

"What?" She frowned, "You say that as if we're never going to see each other again."

"Why, do you want to see me again?" He wriggled his brows, making Lisa slap his arm lightly.

"Duh. Of course I do." She looked away, muttering the last part. "Anyway, we won't be seeing each other until... June or something." They would be starting their North American tour this April and the schedule was so tight that they didn't have the time to go back to Korea after Coachella. It kind of made her disappointed, but she didn't want to tell him.

"That's too long." Jeongguk replied, "Well," He sighed, "That's idol life, I guess. We'll get used to it." Similar to Blackpink, they'd only be in Korea for the month of April for their promotions and then head back to tour for the entire month of May.

"I know."

"Just FaceTime me and message me everyday, okay?" He gave her a small smile, to which she returned.

"Okay, Junglebook." After she had said it, she spotted a taxi from a distance. "There's the taxi."

Suddenly, Jeongguk engulfed her into a hug.

"What are you..." She started, surprised, "Why are you hugging

me?"

"Nothing." He muttered into her neck, "I'm just going to miss you." She didn't know why, but she felt wistful as he said those.

Lisa laughed instead, putting her arms around him and her head on his chest. "I know you will. I'll miss you, too. Kind of." She felt him pinch her side, to which she giggled.

He raised his head to look at her, "You smell really nice." She looked at him, amused, "Can I... uh... can I have your hoodie?" His ears turned red, she noticed.

"Why?" She asked, teasing him.

"Cause I like the scent, that's why." *And because I'm going to miss you.* He thought.

She snorted, "I knew it. I knew you were gonna miss me." He looked away, embarrassed. "I'll give it to you later, Guk, when we're at your apartment." She could see his shoulders sag a bit - a sign of relief, "But..."

"But what?" He tensed again.

"You have to give me a kiss." It was a joke, one that she thought he wouldn't do.

However, she taken aback when Jeongguk immediately kissed her, *on the lips*, still with their masks on. It only lasted for a second, but it still left her heart a pounding mess.

Sure, she'd kissed guys before, but she wasn't so certain why this was different. *It was just an indirect kiss. Just that, and nothing more.* She thought as she tried to calm herself down.

"Ooooo...kay." Lisa awkwardly laughed pulling away from the embrace. "Oh, look. Here's the taxi."

Jeongguk could only laugh to himself. "What perfect timing."

Needless to say, the taxi ride to the Hannam Hill was awkwardly silent.

THE PICTURE LALISA SENT CAN BE FOUND IN THE MEDIA.

22

ALL TIME ZONES ARE IN ET

(Coachella is 3 hours behind New York where BTS is in this chapter)

APRIL 12, 2019

6:22 pm

LALISA

BIIIIITCH WE ARE
AT THE COACHELLA
VALLEYYYYYY FUCKIN
HELLLLLLL

JEONGGUK

didn't you like
rehearse there
yesterday

LALISA

yes but performance
day is a different
vibe yanno
sometimes time
zones really
surprise me

JEONGGUK

why

LALISA

yesterday we left
korea almost night time
and we arrived at
the US in the morning
so does that mean that
i went back in time???

JEONGGUK

darling are
you high

LALISA

nope

not yet



JEONGGUK

oh god

LALISA

have you tried
getting high once?

JEONGGUK

lol yes

last year, when
we first came to
the bbmas

it was good but
meh never tried
that again

LALISA

was it coke

JEONGGUK

sprite

LALISA

ha ha ha

JEONGGUK

yea it was coke

LALISA

how'd you feel?

JEONGGUK

high

LALISA

obviously

JEONGGUK

how's coachella?

LALISA

awesome

i'm guessing you
won't be able to
drop by?

JEONGGUK

can't :/

manager's orders

i'm sorry

LALISA

nah its fine

just watch the
live then

:D

JEONGGUK

i'll make sure

to do that

LALISA

hey, guk, listen

i'm not gonna

be able to talk

to you that much

cause its crazy in

here i swear

i'll text you when

we're about to

perform and after,

okay?

JEONGGUK

okay darling

goodluck!

break a leg

LALISA

how about i

break your neck

JEONGGUK

you make my

heart flutter

LALISA

❀❀❀

11:50 pm ET

later okay

JEONGGUK

noted

▪□

11:39 pm

LALISA

WE'RE ABOUT

TO PERFORM

JSJSIZIISISISJZ

Jeongguk smiled as he read the text. He was in his hotel room, lounged on the couch and the TV finally ready for BLACKPINK'S live performance in Coachella. He was excited for her, all right. It brought him back to their own AMAs performance, wherein they had felt the heavy pressure of being the first Korean boy group to perform in front of celebrities. He was sure they felt the same thing.

A knock suddenly snapped him out of his trance.

"JK! It's me, Tae." A voice sounded from the other side of the door. Sighing, Jeongguk stood up and went to open it. "Hey, what are you up to? Want to play games?"

"No." He shook his head, going back to the couch. "I'm watching BLACKPINK's Coachella performance in a bit. I think it's about to start, anyway."

"Coachella? That's today?" Taehyung incredulously asked. "Then why didn't we go?"

"It's hours away, Tae."

"Aw, that's too bad." He settled himself next to him, "I'll watch with you. What time will they be performing?"

"At 11:50."

"Cool." He faced him, "Tell me, Guk, how does it feel like dating your crush?"

His sudden question startled him, "My crush?"

"Lisa. She's been your crush since forever, you know."

Jeongguk tilted his head, "How can you say so?"

The other boy snorted, "Guk, even if you don't say so, it's pretty obvious. You practically jam to her lines during award shows and you never miss a lyric."

"So? You do that, too."

"Yeah. But do I search *BLACKPINK Lisa Cute Moments* and *BLACKPINK Lisa Raps* on YouTube?"

Oh shit. "Where did you learn about that?" It was true, but it was a long time ago.

"You gotta delete your history sometimes, you know. Besides, that was in what, 2018? I think you lost interest around mid-2018, though."

He nodded, "Yeah, I did."

"But now you're dating her. What happened?"

"I honestly don't know. We just started being friends and stuff and things started to... develop." He lied smoothly. The other guy bought it.

"Well, you have to be careful though. They're from YG. You know what they're capable of." Taehyung scrunched his nose, "Oh, look, the show's starting."

Indeed, the show was starting. The introductory VCR was playing, the names of the members written in big, bold letters appearing one by one.

"Oh my God, they have a band?!" Taehyung practically screamed as the instrumentals started playing. "Shit, I've got to call Namjoon. He's going to die when he sees this." He ran out of the room, making Jeongguk laugh.

Moments later, they returned, not just with Namjoon but Jin and Jimin as well.

"Hey, you're a Blink, too?" Jeongguk asked, looking up and down at Jimin.

He shook his head, "Uh, no. I just went here 'cause I've got nothing better to do." But Jeongguk knew it was a lie.

They all settled themselves on the couch, which was surprisingly big.

"Ddu du ddu du is starting." Taehyung clapped his hands.

"Oh my God, they have a band?!" Namjoon asked in amazement as the intro of the song started playing, repeating Tae's previous question. "This is amazing!"

Jin whistled. "The outfits are amazing. Glad that YG gave them decent outfits rather than... the *last time*."

While they were talking, Jeongguk was searching for a certain gray head that still didn't appear in the frame.

"Oof, Jennie looks so hype." Namjoon commented as she started the song.

Jin agreed, "Honestly, I would be, too. It's Coachella we're talking about."

"Look, Kookie, your girlfriend." Jimin pointed. The boys started teasing him, to which he ignored.

There she was, rocking the stage as if it was hers. Lisa's stage presence always stood out among the four of them, hence why he was drawn to her immediately. The energy that she was just giving out was extraordinary.

"Wow, her body is magnificent." Jimin remarked, making Taehyung glare him and mutter *hey, that's his girlfriend*. "What? It was just a comment."

"Hey, watch it." He didn't know why he was tense so suddenly, "That's my girlfriend you're talking about."

"Chill your ass, Guk. I was just commenting."

And that's how the rest of the show went.

The five of them continued to watch, occasionally throwing positive comments here and there, up to the point where Hoseok and Yoongi came to watch as well.

Yoongi was particularly surprised by the stamina the girls had despite almost not having a break in between. How they remained stable despite the tiring set list.

He felt proud and arrogant whenever they threw a compliment to Lisa. He'd say, "Well, that's my girlfriend." smugly and the rest of the boys would just roll their eyes and grumble.

Eventually, the show ended and the boys told Jeongguk to send their congratulations to the girls. It wasn't actually their first time interacting though, they had backstage moments where they would congratulate each other whenever they pass by or Tae would just send Jisoo a text. Namjoon and Jennie had been friends way before, as well as Lisa and Jimin because of a collab they did back in 2016.

So they sort of have a background of friendship together, except for the fact that both groups didn't meet in person yet.

APRIL 13, 2019

1:01 am

JEONGGUK

great job darling!!

i'm so proud of you

❶❷❸

like that's my girl

right there ❶❷❸

the boys send their

congratulations too

by the way

1:21 am

LALISA

KOOKIEEEE

thank you so

muchhhh ❶

wish you

were here ❶

JEONGGUK

next time □

enjoy your

time there lali

LALISA

okayyyy

you're going

to sleep?

JEONGGUK

yessss

goodnight

darling ❶❷❸

LALISA

nanite, junglebook

let's talk tomo

okay??

❶□

23

APRIL 23, 2019

"Can you hear me?" Lalisa raspily asked as the FaceTime connected, Jeongguk's bare face appearing on the screen. Her own appearance, however, was dishivied. It was 6:00 am in the morning, and she had just woken up early despite her body being exhausted just so she could FaceTime the guy.

She didn't know why, but she *kind of* missed him. Kind of. *Well, friends do that.*

"Can you hear me?" Jeongguk mocked on the other line, voice on a higher octave just to imitate her. "Good morning, darling."

"I do not sound like that." She protested, leaning on her elbows and her phone in hands. "Good morning to you, too, Junglebook."

He laughed, "But you do, Liz. How's Chicago?"

"It's quiet." She replied nonchalantly. "By the way, did you know, Willow Smith invited me to Kanye West's Sunday Service yesterday."

"Was she nice?" He asked, sitting down. "Did you meet Jaden?"

"Jaden and I are practically bestfriends." She said smugly while standing up, "And yes, Willow's a sweetheart."

"Whatever." He rolled his eyes. "Oh, look," He stood up which made Lisa have a clear view of what he was wearing, "I'm wearing your hoodie. Tada."

"Hmmm," She pretended to think, "That's quite cute." Lisa shrugged and walked to the bathroom, finger combing her hair all the while, "That looks better on you than it did on me."

"Well, duh. Of course. It's me you're talking about." He scrunched his brows when he saw her in the bathroom. "What are you doing there?"

She carefully placed her phone in mirror, trying not to let it fall. "Um, I'm going to wash my face, obviously."

His face fell, "Oh. I thought you were going to have a shower and you were going to make me watch."

"Keep your nasty comments to yourself, Guk. It's 6 in the morning, for God's sake." She grabbed her toothbrush, put some toothpaste on it, and brushed her teeth - him watching her the entire time. "Have you eaten dinner?" She asked, almost

incomprehensible because of the foam in her mouth.

"I really can't understand you, darling, but I'll try my best." His raised his brow, "You asked about me eating dinner? No, not yet. I was waiting for you."

Lisa stopped brushing for a moment to ask, "Why?" Then continued.

"I figured it would be sweet if you ate your breakfast and I eat my dinner together while we're doing FaceTime." He smiled, satisfied with himself, "I'm the sweetest boyfriend ever, right?"

She didn't reply, instead, she just spit the toothpaste out and gargled some water.

"What, you don't agree?"

Lisa snorted as she put the toothbrush back into the mirror and wet her face. "Keep on complimenting yourself, Jeon. Let's see where it gets you."

"It's true, anyway." Jeongguk watched as she applied a foaming cleanser to her face, "That's just your skin care?" He asked as if it was the most disgusting thing in the world.

"You sound as if I did something gross." She replied, rubbing circles in her cheeks, "And no. This isn't my skin care. I'm too lazy to do everything so I'll just slap on a face mask after."

The male was silent for a second, and then spoke again, "I'll be back, darling. Don't turn it off just yet." Then he disappeared from view.

Lisa shrugged and continued to do her work, washing her face with water and applying an Aloe Vera face mask after. She was just rubbing it in when Jeongguk came back.

"What did yo- Oh my God, you scared me." She gasped, putting a hand to her heart. "Fucking hell, Jeongguk."

"What?" Jeongguk asked, now wearing a face mask similar to hers, only that it was charcoal, "I thought you'd find it sweet." The sudden dark color scared her the most.

"It's sweet, alright," She admitted, regaining her composure, "But you don't have to scare me like that. I thought I was talking to somebody else."

"It's just me, anyway, so calm down." He replied, lying down on the bed. "I really can't speak right now."

"Obviously. The face mask does wonders, like shutting your mouth." Like him, she also laid down on her bed so the face mask would stay in place. "What's for dinner, Guk?"

He raised his head a bit and yelled, "Jimin, what's for dinner?" The reply came not a second later, "Bulgogi."

"Wow. I wish." Lisa huffed, "Mine is pancakes with maple syrup. I wanted bacon and eggs but I realized American breakfast is greasy

as hell."

"So you opted for pancakes just because they're not fatty?"

"Congrats, Einstein." She deadpanned, "How long do you have to keep your mask on?"

He stopped, thinking, "Um, it's a quick face mask so I guess like three to five minutes. Yours?"

She groaned through her gritted teeth, "Ten minutes. What am I supposed to do?"

"You don't literally have to wear it for ten minutes. Five will suffice."

"Okay, fine. Only this time." She turned her eyes to the ceiling, "How many minutes left?"

"Three minutes." He sighed, "What are we gonna do?"

"Honestly, I just want to sleep." She closed her eyes for a few seconds, but opened them after hearing Jeongguk's protests. "Never mind."

"Hm. Let's ask each other questions?" He offered, "Like, ten questions each. I'll start."

"Hm, okay."

"Ummmm..." He paused to think, "You know what, never mind. My mind is in a blank state."

"Honestly, same." Lisa sat down. "Let's just ditch these masks and eat."

Jeongguk laughed and removed his own mask as well, going to the bathroom to wash his face. It felt pretty weird for Lisa to be honest, that she was this comfortable and open with him. She never had male friends like him before, and this felt pretty refreshing. She liked the change.

"Okay, let's eat our food." She excitedly squealed as she used the towel to pat her face. Hurriedly going to her small table, she saw him do the same.

"Let's eat." He grinned, showing his bunny teeth. "Oh, wait, Tae. Meet Lisa." The camera turned to his group member, Taehyung, who was sitting beside him.

Lisa felt shy. She looked absolutely bare faced right now. This was not a good first impression.

"Hey, Lis! Is it okay if I call you Lis?" Taehyung smiled at her. "JK here purposefully missed dinner with us just so he can eat with you."

"Oh, is that so? That's sweet of him." She smiled back at him, "Hi, Taehyung. I'm sorry for my current appearance."

The other guy shook his head, "No, no, it's fine. I look the same anyway." He leaned back on the chair, "You guys continue your little date over there. I'll be busy doing... other things. Bye, Lis!"

"Sure." She bowed a little before the camera returned to her so

called *boyfriend*. "I looked like a donkey."

He snorted, "Chill, Lis. You look cute otherwise."

The reply made her blush.

So that's how Lissa's morning went - the both of them sharing their recent experiences with each other through a meal, Jeongguk almost choking on a piece of meat as she told him on how she took her first coke with Jennie urging her on.

I'm never letting you get high again, he had said. *What, are you my boss or something?* She had rolled her eyes on his comment to which he ignored.

Lisa immediately went to her bed afterwards, dozing off as he told her more and more stories about the happenings in Korea. She swore she didn't want to sleep throughout the FaceTime, but her eyes were *so, so* tired.

He just let her be.

CURRENT RANKING AS OF 03/18/20:

#1 in *LIZKOOK*

#2 in *BLACKBANGTAN*

#15 in *BANGPINK*

#15 in *BANGTANPINK*

#26 in *LISKOOK*

#49 in *LISA*

#657 in *BTS*

also,,, happy 40k reads!! started updating this book last february and i'm so glad it gained this many reads ever since. 🥰

wow i'm crying y'all

ALL TIME ZONES ARE IN EDT

(Lisa is in New Jersey which is 3 hours ahead of Las Vegas where JK is in this chapter)

MAY 3, 2019

Lalisa was pissed.

She didn't know why.

It was 3 am in the morning. She was supposed to be asleep as Blackpink had just finished their last concert in Newark, but she was busy scrolling through her Twitter feed to catch up on the latest bizz of Kpop and what not when one particular video caught her attention.

It was a video of Tori Kelly and BTS, her supposed to be *boyfriend* talking to the artist eagerly and seemingly to be restless and shy around her.

She *rolled her eyes*.

She didn't know why, but she rolled her eyes.

The last time they texted was this morning, May 2nd, where she had congratulated him and the boys for winning such an award. After that, she didn't reply to any of his texts.

Why you may ask.

Before the BBMAs started, Jeongguk couldn't help but gush over text that he was *so, so* excited to meet Tori Kelly, his *long time* idol. Lisa was fine with it, knowing that idols having idols were a normal thing. Hell, she also had idols, too, particularly Normani - but that doesn't really matter.

Back to the story, Lisa empathised with what he felt. She even urged him, telling him *go talk to her, Guk, tell her about your Paper Hearts cover* and he was like, *okay, okay, i will, wish me luck*.

That was fine.

After the show, he immediately texted her *ahhhh i just met tori kelly i'm crying* and continued to text her all about their meeting and how she's so *perfect* and *beautiful* and *kind* and *nice* and Lisa was fine with that, too.

It wasn't until this morning that she'd congratulated him and all he still talked about is Tori Kelly up to the point where she just told him *i'm busy, let's talk later* and he just let her be.

He didn't even greet me good morning or told me goodnight or asked if

I had dinner or breakfast or if I had enough rest or asked what was I doing. She thought, irritated.

She wasn't jealous. No. Never. She was just... annoyed.

Lalisa checked her messages with Jeongguk once more and after seeing no new message, she closed her phone and slept again.

■

She woke up because of the banging on her hotel room door.

Screaming muffled words from under her pillow, no one from outside could really apprehend what she was saying so she was left with no choice.

Before rising from bed, she checked her phone. It was 9 in the morning - still no new messages from Jeongguk. Not that she was expecting, anyway.

Lisa stood up to find her slippers, not bothering to fix her hair or her almost naked body. She was just wearing an oversized shirt with only an underwear underneath - her go-to sleepwear these days.

"Lisa, get the hell out of there!" Jennie's voice sounded on the other side of the door. Jesus, it was 9 am.

"Wait!" She yelled back, struggling to find her goddamn slippers. When she did, she ran to the door and opened it, only to close it again.

What the fuck did she just see.

I am not hallucinating, am I?

She gulped and with sweaty hands, opened the door again.

No, she was not hallucinating.

Jeon Jeongguk was actually standing in front of her.

"Good morning, darling." The voice woke her up. She suddenly grabbed his arm and pulled him inside, locking the door afterwards.

"What are you doing here?" She demanded, not knowing if she should feel glad or angry that he was here. "My managers are literally above us. How did you know my hotel room?"

Jeongguk held up his hands, "Woah, woah, calm down, Lis." He walked around her and made himself comfortable on her bed, "First of all, I came here because I was bored out of my wits."

"So you literally flew from the other side of America just so you won't be bored there?"

He looked anywhere but her, "Yes." Clearing his throat, he continued, "And also, because I miss you - but that doesn't really matter."

Lisa's heart did a weird thing in her chest.

"Next, your members helped me. I talked to Chaeyoung, Jisoo met me downstairs, and Jennie led me to your room." He shrugged as if it was nothing, "I must say, they deserve A+ for group effort."

"Guk, you need to get out of here right now." Aside from the fact that he had just stated that he missed her, her mind was still drifting to her managers who might catch him with her and possibly report her to their boss.

"Wow, what a greeting." He clapped his hands sarcastically, "Besides, I'm not gonna stay here for the night, anyway. I have to go to LA tonight."

She couldn't stop herself from her next question, "So... so you came here... *just for me?*"

He stated at the ceiling as he responded, "Yes."

"You're... such a great *friend*." She forced herself to smile. The air was awkward, no one really speaking to one another as they both pondered on her statement. "Um... what are we gonna do today?"

His ears perked up, "Today? Oh, right." He stood up from the bed, "We're going to have a picnic."

"A picnic?"

"Picnic at Branch Brook Park. You're up for it... right?"

She couldn't really disagree with him as it was her break today, so she said, "Sure. Why not?"

He smiled at her response, "By the way, you might want to change your Hello Kitty panties into someth-"

She threw a pillow at him before he could finish.

■

"Where are you?" Lalisa craned her neck around the park just to find that usual black bucket hat that Jeongguk seemed to be always wearing. There were only a few people in the park but still, no sign of him.

After that little incident at the hotel, they'd snuck out and rode a cab to Branch Brook Park, wearing their usual *fun* disguises. Lisa was still in a sulky mood but the guy seemed to not notice - or not care.

"Just walk straight down the path and you'll see me on the left side." He said on the other line. "I'm so hungry, Lali." He faked cry, which made her wince.

"Oh, shush, Junglebook. I'm almost- ah, there you are." She ended the call abruptly as she saw him laying down on a picnic blanket that he got out of nowhere and a box of pizza and cheesecake next to him. "A pizza and a cheesecake?" *Unusual choices.*

"Uh huh." He raised his head and squinted at what she was holding, "Fish and chips and tacos?"

"Obviously." She sat down next to him and opened their food one by one, "All these food are going to make us fat."

"Just this once, darling. Better enjoy it." Like her, he also rose from the blanket and sat down. "Let's eat?"

She didn't reply, just grabbed a slice of pizza and started eating.

"Wow, you're on a sour mood today, huh?" He observed her for a while, "What's gotten your Hello Kitty panties in a twist?"

"Can you shut up?" She bit back. She had no idea why she was acting this way, probably because the annoyance she had for him since yesterday was still there.

"Then what is it?"

Once again, she didn't reply. Just stared at the trees and the people walking around the park.

"Hmmm. I think something's bothering you." He scooted closer, "You know, Lis, I didn't come here just so we could eat silently during a picnic."

No reply.

"Lalisa."

None.

"Okay, fine. I'll go to the airport after this so I won-"

"Why don't you go back to that Tori Kelly of yours?" She snapped. *Wait. What did I just say? Oh my God.* "Wait, I'm sorry, I didn't mean to."

Jeongguk slowly grinned as he realised what she had said, "Ooooh, is that *jealousy* I smell?"

"Me? *Jealous*?" She scoffed and took a bite of her pizza, "Never. And why would I even be jealous of *her*? I mean, she did nothing wrong and you're not even my real boyfriend."

He threw his head back to laugh, "Darling, you're too obvious."

"Shut up, Guk. You're lying to yourself."

"*Why don't you go back to that Tori Kelly of yours?*" He mimicked her, adding unnecessary gestures which made her glare at him, "That's the cutest thing I've heard all week."

"You're a fucking dumbass, Jeon."

"Yeah, well, at least I'm not jealous." He seemed to be liking this, which annoyed her even more, "But listen to me, darling, she's just my idol. Nothing else. You don't need to worry about her. Besides..."

"Besides what?" She couldn't help but ask.

"She's not even my type." He shrugged, looking at her after.

"What's your type, then?"

"You."

Lisa's cheeks turned pink, "Oh, uh, look, the cheesecake's blueberry." *This was awkward as hell.*

"Yeah, and the sky is blue, right?" He chimed in, not caring about her obvious awkwardness. "Anyway, Lis, you don't need to worry about her. It was just my first time meeting her in person and I was starstruck and... well, you know how that goes." She didn't reply, her mouth tilting to the side, "If you feel that I've neglected you in

any way, I'm sorry for that and I promise I won't do it again."

"Why are you even explaining?" She asked right after his recent statement, "I mean, it's not like you owe me anything."

He smiled softly at her, "But I do. Now, open up, darling. Ahh." He held out a spoonful of cheesecake at her, and without a doubt, she accepted it.

"You're still an idiot, Jeon."

"I know, but I'm *your* idiot."

"Sometimes, I wish I can zip your mouth."

■□

"You know, you're the only girl to ever drop me off the airport - well, except my mom, of course." Jeongguk sighed as he stared at the towering airport in front of him. After the quick picnic at the park, the both of them had a little walk and took photos on various places around Newark. It was cut short, however, because Jeongguk had to catch his 6pm flight to Los Angeles.

Lisa was disappointed, but she didn't want to admit that to him.

"Do you want an award for that, Guk?" She asked jokingly. He shook his head. "Hey, don't look too sad. We'll see each other soon."

"Pfft. What are you talking about?" He rolled his eyes and then sighed for the nth time that day, "Come here, darling." He opened his arms, waiting for her to embrace him.

And she did.

"Hey, I'm sorry for acting bitchy a while ago." She pursed her lips while hugging him. "I was just stressed out."

"You're quite adorable when you're jealous." He smiled fondly at her. *I'm not.* She wanted to protest but stopped herself.

"But... thank you for coming all the way here. I appreciate it." She pulled away just to smile at him.

She squealed in surprise as he pinched her cheek.

"Always." He checked his wrist watch, "I've got to go now, Lis. I'll see you soon."

They both pulled away from each other, Lisa didn't know why her heart felt heavy out of a sudden. "Bye, Guk." She gave him a little wave.

He turned around with a small smile and walked to the entrance.

However, a lingering feeling stayed with Lisa. She felt as if she had to do something but couldn't find the courage to.

Should I do this? She thought, *well, fuck it.*

"Guk!" She ran to him, catching his attention. "You forgot something."

His face morphed to worry, "What? What is it?"

"This." Like old times, she stood on her tippy toes, placed both of her hands on either side of his face, and kissed his cheek.

And, like old times, he froze on the spot.

"And another one." She pressed another kiss to his right cheek, making him a living statue yet again. "Bye, Junglebook. Take care."

She watched with amusement as he struggled to find the right words.

"Um... I- uh... thanks, darling." He licked his lips, "Bye."

Lisa could only snicker to herself as he tried to fathom what had just happened.

CLICK!

a/n: not related to the story but it read on twitter that yge is being pressured about bp's comeback because there were 2 companies wanting to buy every rights on blackpink. the pink's family even wanted to be involved. idk if this is true but damn...

anyway, how do you like today's chapter? :D

25

MAY 10, 2019

Blinding camera flashes filled her vision.

After finishing their North American tour, Blackpink and the entire team went back to Korea as soon as possible to let the girls rest for a few days before heading to Amsterdam on the 16th. Meetings with the CEO would also be done to evaluate the girls' previous performance.

This wasn't what made Lalisa's stomach churn, though. It was because Jennie had wanted to talk to her as soon as they'd arrived in their dorm. For what? She doesn't know.

"Lis, come here." Jennie started as soon as they finally were able to settle. "I've got something to say."

Lisa came closer to the girl, sitting down on the couch in the living room. Jisoo was in the kitchen, fixing herself instant Laksa while Chaeyoung was in the bathroom, probably doing her business. It was only the both of them in there.

"What is it, unnie?" She asked, pretending she wasn't nervous. Even if she'd been with Jennie for years now, her face still intimidated her. Sure, she can be goofy at times but during serious times like this, no one really knew what was going on inside her mind.

"About this... *thing* going on between you and Jeongguk... I just... I feel like I need to say something." The girl fiddled with her hands, "As you know, I've been in the same situation as you before." *Kai. She'd been with Kai.* Lisa remembered.

"I know, unnie." That reveal of their relationship had caused a major dent in their reputation. The day after Dispatch had revealed the two were the Golden Disc Awards and the four of them had looked so unenthusiastic about everything - especially Jennie. More hate had come their way, more criticisms, more backlash, just because they didn't perform well. *I mean, if someone revealed your relationship without permission you'd feel that, too.* Jennie took everything to heart, hence the reason why she's changed. For better or for worse, Lisa didn't know.

"You know that after we've been *revealed* to the public," She chuckled harshly, "The fans started to turn on me. The hate worsened. They focused on me more than Kai, as if it was my fault

that he fell in love with me in the first place."

Lisa was quiet. She wanted to let her talk.

"I didn't tell you this, but the CEO was furious at me. Furious for hiding such a scandal behind his back. He threatened me... telling me that if I don't break up with him, I'd be kicked out from Blackpink." She then finally looked at Lisa in the eyes as she said, "I don't want the same thing to happen to you."

She was at loss for words, "What do you mean?"

"You came here for your dreams, right?" She nodded, "Don't let one boy *ruin* it for you. Don't risk it for him."

"Unnie, he isn't... he isn't *ruining* anything."

"But he will if you don't let him go." Jennie took ahold of her hands, "Lis, you're my sister. I don't want you to get caught or get tangled with scandals. I love you with all my heart and I don't want the same thing to happen to you."

"I... I can't." She didn't know why, but she didn't want to end it with him so suddenly. It just feels wrong.

Jennie was silent for a moment. It wasn't until she asked, "You love him?"

Lisa didn't really have an answer for that, but she said, "Yes." She knew it wasn't true, but she had to say it, anyway.

The other girl sighed and closed her eyes. "I love you, Lis. I don't want to lose you, but I also respect your decision." She finally opened them to look at her, "Just don't make the same mistakes that I did."

That night, sleep didn't come easily.

The conversation with Jennie still lingered in her mind. Will Jeongguk be really able to ruin what she's worked so hard for?

Yes. Maybe? She doesn't know.

Besides, what she and Jeongguk had was just a deal - nothing more, nothing less. They were just friends. What they had between them now was to end in two months, in July.

Wait.

We've been together for almost two months now?

It was too fast.

Lisa didn't know why, but her heart suddenly ached as she realized that fact.

Only two more months left.

They were just friends, yet... why was she feeling like this? It was bizarre.

She's grown accustomed to the guy, though. He'd become as someone whom she could lean on. This wasn't what she expected at first, she thought they'd just throw insults at each other like the first time they communicated but he proved her wrong.

Lisa hoped that after all this, after all this fake relationship and what not, they'd still be able to be friends with each other.

At the thought of him, her hands hastily grabbed her phone from her bedside table as it *dinged*.

9:42 PM

JEONGGUK

good morning

darling

are you in
korea already?

She unknowingly smiled as she typed in her reply.

LALISA

good morning

junglebook

yea

i was about

to sleep lol

JEONGGUK

it's fine

you need that

sleep well :)

goodnight 

LALISA

goodnight 

Lalisa closed her phone and with a happy heart, she slept.

26

ALL TIME ZONES WILL BE IN EDT

(JK is currently in New Jersey which is 5 hours behind from Amsterdam where Lisa is in this chapter)

MAY 18, 2019

Another day, another concert. Jeongguk was more than exhausted.

Constant touring around the world requires more than your blood and sweat - it also requires your all your time, dedication, and perseverance. Jeongguk knew about this, yet the feeling of being worn out always felt so new every time he finished one of his many full schedules. He had always kept in mind that he chose to be an idol, so he would face everything that came with the package.

Today was their concert at the MetLife stadium in New Jersey. He was thrilled, of course, to perform in front of an enormous crowd. They'd sold out the entire stadium and he still couldn't believe it. They'd sold out the tickets under two hours.

Only if Lisa was there to witness it all.

The friendship that they've both developed astonished him. He never even thought that they'd be friends, let alone *close* friends. The bond that they've created was unlike any other. Sure, he had other female acquaintances as well, but it wasn't the same with what he had with Lisa.

He had to admit - he's gotten quite attached to her. *But she doesn't need to know that, does she?*

They've been fake dating for two months now and it was due to end on July, but whenever he thought about it, his mood turns sour. He didn't know why, but it did.

The other day, his members surprised him the computer that they bet on. He felt delighted, of course, that he finally got what he wanted but then again, his thought drifted towards Lisa.

After receiving the computer, now what?

It would be harsh if he'd end their relationship instantly. He figured it would be better to go on with the original plan - four months of fake dating and then finish it. Besides, she didn't mention about her bet with her members yet. So far, it seemed like she was going to win as they haven't been caught.

Then, as if on cue, his phone *dinged*.

7:23 am

LALISA

good morning
junglebook

just finished
eating lunch

JEONGGUK

hey :)

about to eat
breakfast

are you at
the afas rn?

LALISA

not yet

but we're
on our way

JEONGGUK

take care

darling 

LALISA

you too :)

let's talk
later

JEONGGUK

sure

As soon as he sent the text, he finally rose from bed to start his day.

■

To sum the evening up, entire show went well.

They ended it with *Mikrokosmos*, a song that never failed to make Jeongguk tear up - especially as he was singing it in front of the people whom had believed in them despite everything. If he could meet them all one by one, he would. If only.

However, after the show had ended, Jeongguk had suffered from an intense pain that he lost the ability to walk on his own and had to be carried to the car. He didn't know why it happened so suddenly... everything seemed fine a while back yet it came down to this.

He was feeling a mix of emotions: anger, for what he was experiencing, fear, for the possibility of not performing tomorrow, and disappointment, for not being careful. If he had to sit down for tomorrow's performance, he was going to lose it. The last time that it happened, he wasn't able to take just sitting there and watching his members perform. He felt useless that he cried during the

performance.

"Guk, just breathe, okay? The doctor will be coming to the hotel shortly." His manager had assured him as he was lying down the van.

The other members were there with him, trying to comfort him as he grunted and groaned because of the pain.

He was having a migraine, his right leg was excruciatingly painful, he was shivering every few moments or so, and his eyes were disoriented. He couldn't walk straight without stumbling down. *Fuck*.

"We're almost at the hotel, Guk. Just a little more." Someone like Namjoon said from above him. He tried to speak, but failed.

He probably slept for a while because when he woke up, the familiar walls of his hotel room greeted him. Two persons were checking on his leg and his eyes, as well as Jimin and Namjoon, sitting on his right side.

The pain lessened, but it was still there.

"Be sure to give him this, make him drink it thrice a day. Constantly apply ice to his leg and he has to have more than 8 hours of sleep so his disorientation would subside." The doctor said to Namjoon, who was nodding. They exchanged a few words before the two departed, leaving them three alone.

"Hey, " He murmured, still not able to speak as loudly in fear that the pain would aggravate.

Jimin's eyes lit up, "Guk, you're awake! How are you feeling?"

"Not good." He grunted, "What happened?"

Namjoon sat down beside him, "You fainted. The doctor said that you were under so much stress and experiencing fatigue that's why your body reacted this way." He went on and on about the medications that he would need to take but Jeongguk didn't particularly care.

"Will I be able to perform tomorrow?" He interrupted. That was his main priority now because if he doesn't...

The two exchanged a look before Namjoon replied, "Guk, they said it would be better if you'd rest."

"No."

"Guk, your health is important. We have to prio-"

"I said no."

The room fell silent and Namjoon took this as a cue to excuse himself, leaving Jimin and him alone.

"So?" Jeongguk repeated once more, "Will I perform tomorrow? I need answers now."

"Guk..." Jimin tried.

"Don't Guk me." Nobody was giving him answers. He was furious

now that his right leg started throbbing once more, making him close his eyes and clench his jaw.

Jimin looked worried, "What's wrong? Is your leg hurting? Do you need anything?"

"No." He opened his eyes again, "I just want to know if I can perform tomorrow."

The other guy sighed, "You know I can't decide that for you."

Jeongguk clenched his fist in annoyance.

"However," Jimin's hand went to his pocket and pulled out his phone, "This may help." He opened it and showed Jeongguk his contacts, one of which is Lisa. "She wants to talk to you."

He stared at the phone before accepting it.

"I'll be outside."

He watched as Jimin left the room and shifted his gaze back to the phone again. He didn't even know if he was going to call her or not because he was in a bad mood right now and he tends to lash it out on someone. He didn't want Lisa to be experience the other end of the stick.

But, as if on cue, Jimin's phone rang.

LISA IS CALLING

He accepted it anyway.

"Hello? Jimin? Is he fine?" Lisa's voice said from the other line, worry evident in her tone. Immediately, hearing it made his mood ease a little bit. "What did the doctor say?"

"I'm fine, darling." He finally spoke after being bombarded with questions. The other line quieted.

"Guk?" She asked, not quite believing that it was him, "Guk, how are you? Jimin told me everything. What happened?"

"The doctor said it was because of stress and fatigue." His lips thinned, "I don't know if I'll be able to perform tomorrow, though."

"It would be better if you won't."

Jeongguk's eyebrows drew together in shock. *Even her?* "What do you mean? Why?"

"Guk, it's just that you're under a lot of stress right now that's why you're experiencing these things. You need to rest your ass so you'll be in a good condition for your next schedule."

"But Lisa, the people paid for the concert just so they could see the seven of us together. If I'm not there, then what's the point? It's a stadium, for God's sake. Do you even know how many our audiences are?"

"They'd understand, Guk. You can't force yourself to perform or else you'd injure yourself even more. You need to sacrifice one day just so you could get yourself back on track as soon as possible."

"For me it's just one day but for them, for those watching

tomorrow, the concert would be *everything*. Some don't eat just so they could save money, some don't sleep just so they could wait for the tickets. Some work overtime just so they could afford these." He pinched the bridge of his nose, "If I don't perform tomorrow, then their money would go to waste. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for them and I'm just going to ruin it because of some stupid injury."

Lisa sighed, "I understand. I know that." He thought she wouldn't say anything else when she added, "But you're not a robot, Jeon. You're not perfect. You need rest. There can always be another concert, prioritize yourself first."

He laughed humourlessly, "Do you even know what you're saying?" She didn't get his point. They all didn't. "There can always be another concert but not everyone can afford to buy tickets." He scoffed, "That's easy for you to say, since you've been spoon-fed by YG for your entire trainee life. Everything you wanted was given in a snap of a finger. You don't know the struggles we've experienced in a company that had nothing."

The other line fell silent.

"You're a fucking ass, Jeongguk." She spoke a few moments later. "I was just trying to help, but it turns out that I was in the wrong." He didn't say anything, "Fine. You want to perform? Go. No one's stopping you."

Call ended.

MAY 19, 2019

Jeongguk performed that day.

He was quite pleased when they didn't make him sit during the entirety of the show, yet he couldn't help but wince and feel dizzy during performing.

As usual, Lisa had been right. The pain worsened.

At the thought of her, his mood turned glum. She hadn't texted him or called him ever since he snapped at her last night.

And now... he regretted it.

Slowly, he reached for his phone on his bedside table and dialled her number. He sent her countless texts already but he knew a simple text won't be enough. He needed to say it to her.

DIALLING...

RINGING...

RINGING...

RINGING...

CALL ENDED.

She... she just rejected the call.

He tried again.

DIALLING...

RINGING...

CALL ENDED.

Hoseok must've noticed his frustration as he perked up from the couch and asked him, "What is it?"

Jeongguk sighed, "Lisa's not answering my calls."

"She's probably busy. They're on tour right now, right?" He shrugged, "Try later."

"No. It's not that." He sighed, "I snapped at her last night."

"What did you say?"

"She told me last night to rest for today's concert. I told her that it's easy for her to say since she's privileged." He licked his lips, "I don't know what's gotten to my head."

Hoseok looked disappointed, "That's a dick move, Jeongguk." He came closer, "They may be from YG but we don't know what really happens behind the scene."

Jeongguk pursed his lips, "I know, hyung. I know."

"So, what will you do?"

He shook his head, "I don't know. I've sent her countless messages yet she doesn't reply. What do I do, hyung?"

His hyung tsked, "I knew you'd ask me."

MAY 20, 2019

"Who gave this?" was the first thing Lalisa uttered as Chaeyoung handed her a rolled up piece of paper and a single rose.

The girl had entered their shared hotel room a moment ago, holding the said things. From whom? Lisa didn't know.

"Just open it." Chaeyoung insisted.

And she did.

Once she saw whom the letter was from, her mouth fell open.

It was from the devil himself - *Jeon Jeongguk*.

She wasn't speaking to him for more than a day now as he snapped at her the other night. She was shocked of what he had said that she couldn't accept his words even now. *Privileged*. He thought of her as privileged.

That fact hurt her.

Biting the inside of her cheek, she read the letter.

Lalisa,

You haven't been responding to my texts and calls lately, and I know the reason why. I am deeply sorry for what I have said the other night as I was mad and frustrated and I lashed it out on you. I tend to do that sometimes and I don't even know why... I'm really really sorry for what I've done and I regret my words. I know you only cared for me and my well being yet I misunderstood it. I have no excuse and I hope I can make it up to you.

I'll give you the time and space that you need. I really am sorry and I

hope you'd accept my apology. Be safe always and don't overwork yourself.

Message me if you need anything.

Love, JK

Lalisa rolled her eyes. What a dick... but at least he was a *cute* dick.

"Where did you get this?" She asked Chaeyoung who was now sitting on her bed.

"Oh, he sent it to me and I printed it." She replied, shrugging, "The guy loves you too much, Lis. It's pretty obvious. I was surprised by his effort. That's one rare thing in this industry."

She scoffed. *Love?* They weren't even together.

Sighing, she closed the letter and put it in her bag.

Jeongguk can wait.

ALL TIME ZONES ARE IN CET*(Barcelona is 4 hours ahead of Brazil where JK is in this chapter)***MAY 27, 2019**

A week.

It has been a week since Lalisa had contacted Jeon Jeongguk. He kept true to his words - he gave her the space that she needed and he hadn't texted her even once. It felt odd not receiving his usual *good morning* texts but then... it was his fault. He acted like a dick so he had to face the consequences.

Truth to be told, she missed their conversations.

Wait, *scratch that*. She missed the guy.

But she wasn't going to tell him that. It'd boost his ego up even more (keep in mind, his ego is hard to reach. It's too high up there.)

The entire concert team had arrived at Barcelona, where the Pinks would continue and conclude their Europe tour. It had been such a journey that Lalisa never wanted it to end, even if they performed the same songs over and over again.

They were currently at their hotel, resting for tomorrow's show. The managers had given the entire day for them to do whatever they wanted because they arrived earlier than expected. Thank God for that because Lisa was craving gelato.

"Chaeng?" She called out from the bathroom, having just washed her face. She looked like the living dead as of the moment because of the jetlag and her moisturiser wasn't helping. "Chaeyoung!"

Hed bestfriend didn't answer. Rolling her eyes, she went back into their shared suite to her room and saw her in the midst of a call with someone.

"Yeah, yeah. She's fine. We just arrived in Barcelona... yes, we're at the hotel. Mhm, I'll keep that in mind."

She still didn't notice her presence. Lisa cleared her throat, making the girl look at her in panic.

"Fuck, she's here. I'll call you later. Bye." Chaeyoung abruptly ended the call and flashed her a sweet smile. "What is it, Lis?"

"Who were you talking to?" She asked while sitting on Chaeyoung's bed. "I've been calling you countless times already."

"It was no one."

Chaeyoung wasn't a very good liar. "Suck my ass, Chaeng. I'm your bestfriend. You can tell me anything."

Her bestfriend bit her lip before sighing, "Fine. It was Jeongguk." She was about to retort when Chaeyoung raised a hand, "Before you say anything else, he just wanted to check up on you and what you were doing. Since you're not talking to him, he's talking to me instead."

That fucker. "Don't talk to him anymore."

"And why is that?" Chaeyoung raised her brows. "Don't tell me you're jealous."

"I am not." She argued, "Besides, where did he get your number, anyway? I didn't give it to him."

"I don't know either. Probably from Jisoo or Jennie unnie." She looked at her again, "What were you calling me for?"

"Let's get gelato." At the mention of the said dessert, Chaeyoung's eyes lit up.

▪□

The two of them ended up going with Jennie and Jisoo. The older ones were quite furious when they found out they were going out for gelato without telling them - Jisoo, especially.

"What, you're forgetting about us now that you have a boyfriend?" She'd said, to which Lalisa quickly apologised by buying her three scoops of mint chocolate chip ice cream.

The four of them sat in one of the booths of the parlor, eating their ice creams in peace, talking about whatever came into their minds, until Jennie brought up her *relationship*.

"So, Lis, how are things going on with you and that BTS guy?" She asked, licking her chocolate fudge ice cream. "You still good?"

"We're not on speaking terms right now, actually." She honestly responded to which Jisoo chuckled.

"Not speaking because you got caught?" She snorted, "I think we all know who will do the chores for a year. *Definitely* not us." She did a little handshake with both Chaeyoung and Jennie. *Wow. The betrayal.* Lisa thought.

She rolled her eyes, "No, unnie. It's for a different reason. We fought."

Jennie frowned, "You fought? Why didn't you tell me this?" Her eyes widened in realization, "Ah, that's why Namjoon asked for Chaeng's number."

"Oh, so he got it from you." Chaeyoung realized, "I'm kinda like their bridge right now. I must say, it's hard."

"Why did you even fight?" Jisoo butted in, wiping her mouth with a tissue.

Lisa sighed. "It's nothing."

Jisoo scoffed, "Nothing my ass. I know it's *something* because you're not on speaking terms. I mean, if it was just a simple misunderstanding, little Rosie here wouldn't constantly update him about your whereabouts."

She pursed her lips, "I can't tell you."

Jennie raised her brow, "And why not? We're your members. We've been together for years now."

"Both of you might beat him into a pulp." She admitted, knowing how overprotective her unnies were to her and Chaeyoung. "And I don't want that to happen."

"*Pranpriya*," Jisoo said in an authoritative voice, making her nervous at the use of her real name, "Tell us now."

"We promise to not do any harm to him." Jennie reassured, but Lisa knew otherwise. This was the calm before the storm.

She looked at her side at Chaeyoung, to ask for help, yet she was just stuffing her face with ice cream. *I am alone in this.*

Lalisa was defeated. She had no choice, "Okay, fine. It happened a week ago, at Amsterdam. At the same day, they had their concert at MetLife Stadium, right?" Her members nodded, "After the show, Jeongguk was injured that he couldn't walk and had a doctor come to the hotel and check on him."

"Oof, that's the scariest thing to ever happen to you on tour." Chaeyoung commented. The others chimed their agreement.

"Anyway, I called Jimin's number to check up on him. I told him that he should rest and prioritize himself first... but then he said that the fans would be disappointed if he doesn't perform." Then she looked down as she said the next words, "But then I told him that there could always be another concert and..." She hesitated.

"What? What's next?" Jennie asked, frantic to know what occurred after. "Is this the part where we'll beat him into a pulp?"

Lisa gulped, "Hey, promise me you won't do anything to him, okay?" Her unnies nodded their heads and did a pinky swear gesture with her. "Okay... so when I said that, he snapped at me. He told me that... that it was easy for me to say since... well, since-"

"Oh my God, Lisa, just say it!" Jisoo clapped her hands for emphasis.

She rolled her eyes, "Okay, he told me that it was easy for me to say since I was from YG and that we've been spoon-fed our entire trainee life. Everything was given with a snap of a finger and I don't have any idea of the struggles of what it was like to be in a company that had nothing." She finished in one breath. "There. Happy?"

But then, she saw Jennie slowly clench her fists, "That *motherfucker* did not just call us privi-"

"Your boyfriend is an asshole, Lalisa."

"I shouldn't have told him about your whereabouts!"

They all spoke together, all furious of what Jeongguk had said to her. She sighed. *I knew this was going to happen. I shouldn't have told them this.*

"Okay, guys, that's enough!" She raised her voice amidst the noise, "He already apologised, okay?"

"And you forgave him?" Jisoo asked, incredulous.

"Uh, no. I may be an idiot but I'm not *that* kind of idiot." She flipped her hair, "Like I said, I haven't talked to him for a week now."

"Good, good. Show him you're this *independent* woman that can live without him." Jennie did exaggerated gestures in the air, "However..."

Chaeyoung tilted her head, "I don't like that face, Jen. What are you scheming?"

"I'd like to speak with him about this matter... *gently*."

Jisoo smacked her head, "Gently, my ass, Jen. You'd just scare him."

"That hurt, Jesus Christ." She rubbed her head, "I mean it. We can invite him to the apartment for dinner."

Lisa didn't like the idea one bit, "And then what? You'll bombard him with questions?"

"No, silly." Jennie waved her hand, "Just a normal dinner, you know." Then, her eyes twinkled with something else, "You know what, we'll just invite those BTS boys to have dinner with us! Won't that be nice?"

"If that were to happen, they should be the one to invite us instead." Chaeyoung suggested, twirling her hair in her fingers, "So we won't look like *needy* ass bitches."

"What if they won't?" Jennie crossed her arms.

"They will." Chaeyoung turned a pointed look at her, "Lisa will make them. *Right?*"

"Yes, Lisa." Jisoo smirked, "It's time to talk to your piece of shit boyfriend."

Lisa gulped. It only meant one thing.

■

That night, sleep didn't come.

It was already one in the morning and she had to wake up at six to work out as she hadn't worked out for the past week. Lisa didn't take sleeping pills, afraid that she would be knocked out and might miss her alarm tomorrow.

So she was stuck with this.

She already counted from one to one hundred, and then counted

backwards. She played various games in her phone. She stretched a bit before laying down in her bed. She twisted and turned yet it had no effect. *Ugh.*

Hesitantly, she rose from the bed and went to Chaeyoung in another room in the suite. Her bestfriend, on the other hand, was sleeping peacefully. Lisa envied her.

She shook her body softly, "Chaeng, Chaeng, wake up."

The girl didn't budge.

"Chaeng, I can't sleep." She continued, "Can you sing me to sleep?" Chaeyoung had always done this ever since their trainee days as Lisa sometimes experience insomnia whenever she was stressed or pressured. The only way she could sleep was Chaeyoung singing to her.

Yet right now, the girl didn't even move an inch. She was in deep sleep.

Fuck.

Pouting, she stomped back to her bed and tried to find other ideas.

She scrolled through her phone and stopped when she saw a certain name: *Jeongguk.*

Jeongguk was the main vocal in his group... he could sing. Maybe she could just message him...

No.

She would come out as desperate.

She wouldn't lower her pride down for this.

But I can't sleep.

And he did say to message him if I needed something... I also need to work on that dinner with the boys...

Lisa closed her eyes. She was going to message the guy. May God bless her.

1:11 am

LALISA

hey|

he|

h|

you awake?

The reply came not a second later.

JEONGGUK

darling!!!!

i missed you

so much

❀❀❀❀

i am so so

so so sorry

for everything
you were right
the pain
worsened
but I'm okay

nowwww

LALISA

guk shut up
JEONGGUK
okay okay
what do you
need darling?

it's past midnight
there in barcelona
why are you
still awake?

LALISA

i can't
sleep
can i
ask you
a favor?

JEONGGUK

anything
for you
darling

LALISA

can you..
can you
sing me
to sleep?
chaeng used
to do that but
she's sleeping
heavily rn
if it's not okay
the|

She wasn't even finished typing when her phone suddenly rang, displaying the words *Jeongguk is calling*.

She accepted it.

"Hey," Lisa said softly, rolling to the side.

"*Darling*," His voice made her involuntarily shiver. "What song would you like?"

"Anything will do."

The other line quieted for a moment. Lisa thought he wouldn't do it until he sang, "*Come on skinny love just last the year...*"

Upon hearing his soft voice, she almost felt hypnotised. It was comforting... almost euphoric...

"Pour a little salt we were never here,"

She knew that he was just beginning to be fluent in English, but she couldn't help but be wowed by his pronunciation.

"My, my, my, my, my, my, my. Staring at the sink of blood and crushed veneer," She smiled softly as he continued to sing.

"Tell my love to wreck it all. Cut out all the ropes and let me fall..."

Lisa rolled to the other side and set the call on speaker mode so it could echo off the walls, making her drowsy even more.

"Right in the moment this order's tall," Her eyelids started to droop.
"And I told you to be patient, and I told you to be fine..." Unknowingly, her eyes closed as she resumed to listen to his hypnotic voice.

"And I told you to be balanced...

And I told you to be kind...

And in the morning I'll be with you,

But it will be a different kind."

SONG TITLE:

Skinny Love by Bon Iver

(if you want a more lullaby-ish version, listen to **Birdy's** cover)

28

JUNE 10, 2019

The flight back to Korea was more than tiring. Jeongguk wanted nothing more than to teleport back to their apartment and to his comfy bed instead, just so he could escape the reporters and the press.

They have just returned from a fatiguing trip from Paris, where they had their two-day concert and a few days of filming for their *Run BTS!* content. They've wrapped up their North America, South America, and Europe tour with a *bang*. Needless to say, the entire trip wore him out.

Upon arriving at the airport, the reporters were surprised to see Jin, Yoongi, and Hoseok wearing sunflower headpieces. They focused their attention solely on them, making Jeongguk sigh in relief.

The rest of the members went straight ahead to their dorm while Jeongguk, on the other hand, had plans for himself.

He left his luggages and bags in the hands of his manager and told him that he needed to drop off something real quick at a friend's house, hence why he hailed a cab and told the taxi driver to go to the Bamseom apartments.

The silent treatment that his dear *girlfriend* had given him only lasted for a week. He was extremely happy when he had received that text of her wanting him to sing her to sleep. Since then, he started to be careful with his words and tried as best as he could to make up for what he had done by sending sweet nothings to her.

Sometimes, though, he'd think of himself as a fool as they weren't even together and he didn't need to do all these things for her. Their relationship was just for fun for goodness sake, but why was he going to different lengths just for her?

But then again, she was his friend. Friends do that... *right?*

On the way to her apartment, Jeongguk once again double checked the gift box that he was holding.

Oh, right. He had bought her gifts - another thing that friends actually do so he didn't feel odd about it.

The gift box was quite huge, but Jeongguk didn't really mind it. He didn't go overboard, anyway. He bought her various things from

London and Paris - five boxes of French *Laduree* macaroons, chocolates from *Debauve & Gallais*, the cliché plaid French beret, tea from *Whitard and Twinings*, digestives and custard creams to go with the tea, two shadow boxes from Benjamin Pollock's Toy Shop, and a stuffed dinosaur from the National Museum.

Okay, maybe he did went a *little* overboard.

As soon as he finished checking up on the gift box, he realised that they were nearing the apartment complex. Jeongguk fished out cash from his jacket and when the driver stopped at the main entrance, he gave it to him, muttering a *keep the change* before heading out.

It was actually his first time entering her apartment. The last time he went here was when he picked Lisa up for her birthday but he wasn't able to get past the reception area. *Oh well.*

As soon as he went inside the lobby, he immediately went to receptionist and said, "Hey, good evening. Can you give a call to Lalisa Manoban and tell her that someone is looking for her down here in the lobby?"

The receptionist looked up and ask, "Name, please?"

His lips thinned, "JK."

The woman behind the desk nodded. She then proceeded to call someone on the telephone and exchanged a few words with the caller before saying, "He's wearing all black and a- oh? Okay? Just let him in? Okay, ma'am." She then looked up at him and said, "8th floor, room 808."

He nodded as thanks and proceeded to the elevator. It was an awkward two minute ride, him listening to Bigbang's *Haru Haru* before the doors opened to the 8th floor.

As soon as he reached door 808, he felt like a nervous wreck. *What the heck?* It's as if it was his first time meeting her.

Before he could knock, however, the door already opened, revealing a panicked Lisa. The word *cute* automatically popped in his head.

"I- uh, hey, Guk." She looked behind her, seemingly frightened, "You didn't tell me you were coming."

He scratched his nape, "Uh, yeah. Surprise?"

Lisa licked her lips before replying, "Listen, my unnies... they're k-"

She didn't get to finish before Jennie came to view, mouth turned into a grin. *Uh oh*, Jeongguk didn't like that smile.

"Hello, Jeongguk." She pushed Lisa away to stand in front of him, looking down at her nose at him even if he was taller than her. "What a lovely surprise and oh! You even bought a gift. How thoughtful of you." She exclaimed and grabbed the box he was

holding.

"Actually, that's for Lisa-"

"Thank you so much." She went back inside the room, leaving a red-faced Lisa.

"Don't mind her. Come inside." She gave him way and he entered the apartment. He quietly followed her to the living room, where the rest of her members were.

Not knowing what to do, he bowed 90 degrees, "Good evening." When he straightened again, he saw that Jisoo was laying down on the couch, Chaeyoung was lounged on the floor, and Jennie was just exiting what seemed to be Lisa room (the cat stickers were enough evidence).

Jisoo smiled at him, "Hey, Guk." Unlike Jennie, he didn't find her to be intimidating. In fact, she's actually the most approachable in the group - her and Chaeyoung.

Chaeyoung bowed back and held out a pack of gummy worms, "Want some?"

He shook his head, "No, thank you."

Lisa cleared her throat and grabbed his arm, "We'll just be in the kitchen, unnies. We'll be back."

"Okay, kids. Use protection!" Jisoo yelled as Lisa lead him to the kitchen.

"Sorry about my unnies." She started as she sat down at the dining table, "They're just overprotective, especially Jennie."

"I figured out, too." He followed suit, sitting down. "Anyway, I came here just to drop off something yet it seemed like Jennie noona put it in your room already."

"Yeah, you didn't have to, but thank you very much." She said and then perked up as if she remembered something, "Do you want dinner? Jisoo cooked boneless bbq chicken wings and Korean pancake."

As if on cue, his stomach growled, making the girl laugh. "Yeah, would that be fine? Airplane food wasn't really that appetising. I haven't eaten since we left Paris - except several snacks."

"Well, today is your lucky day. Jisoo doesn't really make chicken wings that much but if she did, it tastes like heaven." She boasted as she prepared his food.

"I doubt that. Jin hyung cooks the best chicken wings." He couldn't help but boast back.

"Let's see then." She said as she placed two plates in front of him: one with wings and one with Korean pancakes. His mouth watered at the sight.

"Thank you, darling." He smiled at her before digging in.

"How's your tour?" She asked, sitting down beside him again.

"It was tiring." He shrugged biting into the heavenly wings. *Gosh, Jin hyung's wings would be put to shame with this one.* "Although, seeing the fans made me quite sad and happy at the same time."

She chuckled, "Yeah, it always feels like that, doesn't it?" He nodded in agreement, "How's your injury?"

"I'm fine." He stopped eating and faced her again, "Listen, darling, I really am sorry for what I said that other day. I just... I was frustrated and I didn't know what to do."

Lisa rolled her eyes, "It's okay, Guk. I've told you this a million times already. Chill your ass out."

"I know, but—" He stopped mid-sentence when he saw her face inching nearer. Suddenly, his heart pounded. What was she doing?

Surprise was an understatement when one of her hand cupped his cheek and her gaze landed on his lips. *Lisa, what the hell?*

Unconsciously, he closed his eyes, predicting what would happen. *Here goes nothing.*

However, his fantasy was cut short when he felt her wipe something on the corner of his lips. He opened his eyes, dazed, seeing Lisa wipe her hand on a tissue and her eyes staring at him weirdly.

"What?" She asked, one eyebrow raised. *Wow, what an embarrassment.*

Jeongguk huffed, "I thought you were going to kiss me."

She snorted, "In your dreams, Guk." Her eyes suddenly widened and she stood up again, "Oh, shit, I forgot to give you water."

He continued eating and watched Lisa as she pulled out a glass from the cupboards and filled it with water. "Oh, Lali," He called out, "Namjoon asked me about your schedule. He wants to know if when will you guys be available."

She froze, "Um. Let me think..." She slowly walked back to him, handing him the glass of water, "I think June 17th and 18th. Why?"

He shrugged and took a sip, "He wanted both of our groups to have a formal dinner since apparently, we're dating."

Jeongguk wasn't sure if he heard it right but she muttered *thank God, I didn't even have to suggest this idea to him* under her breath but faced him with a grin on her face, "Well, that's great! Just send me the deets, yeah?"

"Sure." He replied, stuffing the remaining Korean pancake in his mouth. "Done!" He managed to get out.

"That was fast." Lisa took his dishes to the sink - to which he objected, "Shut up, Jeon. Besides, you've got to go home now. You look like you're about to sleep."

He went to stand beside her, trying to grab the plate from her hand, "Give me that." She shook her head and he sighed.

Not knowing what he was doing, he went closer to her, wrapping his arms around her small frame and resting his chin on her shoulder.

She smelled heavenly.

"Uh, Guk, what... what are you doing?" Lisa asked in a low voice, hands turning the faucet off. His heartbeat felt loud in his ears now, his hands clammy.

"I don't know," He admitted, "I just miss you." The truth. He inhaled her scent once more, tightening his hold on her waist.

He felt her smile and slowly, *slowly*, she turned to face him - their faces now inches away from each other.

"I don't know what I'm about to do," She murmured, gaze on his lips, making him lick it unconsciously, "But I'm going to do it anyway."

Jeongguk was about to ask what the hell she was talking about when suddenly, she pressed her lips on his.

Time stopped.

Lisa's lips were soft, *delicate*, gentle - just like how he imagined it would be. The knot in his stomach tightened as he felt her hands around his neck, pulling him closer as he finally responded to the kiss with the same sweetness.

His left hand moved on its own accord as it travelled from her waist to cup her face. She tilted her head, deepening the kiss, her mouth forming a small 'o', which gave way to his tongue. *Fuck.*

The kiss turned from gentle to heated in a matter of moments. Jeongguk bit her lower lip, emitting a moan from the girl. He didn't know why, but his pants tightened at the sound. *Good God, Lalisa, why are you doing this to me?*

His hand was about to travel south when-

"Oh my God, I'm so sorry!" A voice shrieked from the kitchen entrance.

Panicked, the both of them pulled away from each other, catching their breaths. His face was scarlet and he couldn't bear to look at her, afraid of what he might see in her eyes.

Chaeyoung stood at the doorway, eyes covered with her fingers. He was about to speak when Lisa beat him to it.

"Uh, it's nothing, Chaeng. What is it?" Lisa asked, voice shaky. He finally looked at her and saw that she had a fake smile in her face, "You can lower your hands now."

"Um... Jisoo asked if she can have a box of macaroons." She smiled awkwardly at him.

"Ah, actually, she can. The two boxes are for Lisa and the rest are yours." Satisfied with the answer, she went back to the living room with a huge grin in her face.

Now it was only the both of them left.

Lisa cleared her throat awkwardly and looked anywhere but him, "I, uh, Guk, um..."

"Yeah," He chuckled, scratching his head, "I think... I think I need to go now." It was getting late, anyway, and his hyungs must be looking for him now.

"Sure! Of course, of course. I'll walk you to the door." Lisa replied almost immediately, going to the entrance of the kitchen. He followed, still thinking about that goddamn kiss.

"You're leaving?" Jisoo asked as she spotted them both. She was now eating the macaroons at the carpeted floor, Jennie now occupying the couch.

"Yeah, my hyungs are already looking for me." He replied with a small smile, "Thank you."

"Thanks for the macaroons, Guk. You're the best." Chaeyoung gave him a thumbs up to which he laughed.

"Bye, bye, Guk." Jennie did a little wave and once again, he bowed before going to the door.

It was the both of them - *again*.

Lisa tried her best to not sound awkward, but it was still evident in her tone as she said, "Thanks for the gift, Guk. I appreciate it."

"It's nothing." He replied turning the door knob, "I'll just text you the details, yeah?" She nodded, and he gave her a nod before leaving the apartment.

What the hell just happened?

■

As soon as Jeongguk left, Lisa almost fell to her knees in relief.

She just kissed him, *what the actual fuck*.

In her defense, she didn't know what she was doing, *okay*. His lips were just so... so inviting and so soft and so...

Friends kiss, *right*?

Goddammit, Lisa! Focus!

She shook her head, trying to erase the kiss from her mind while walking back to the living room.

Her members were still in the same position as they were before, except for Jennie who was now sitting up straight and was staring at her.

"So? Any updates about the dinner?" She asked, hand on her hip. Typical.

"I didn't even have to suggest the idea to him, actually. He just asked me about our available schedule because Namjoon wanted to have dinner with us." She plopped down on the beanie and crossed her legs, "So, I guess, we'll be meeting the rest of Bangtan soon."

"We better, my tongue was itching to ask him right then and

there about what he said, but thank God I was able to control it." Jennie replied, laying back down.

"Unnie, whatever you're planning, don't."

Jennie shrugged, "I don't know what you're talking about."

As if.

■□

Later on, she decided to text him, just to lessen the tension between them.

10:58 pm

LALISA

thank you

for the gift

guk

you didn't

have to,

you know

JEONGGUK

but i wanted

to so....

what are you

gonna do about

it darling?

Lisa rolled her eyes. He, too, seemed to be forgetting about the kiss.

Thank God.

29

JUNE 18, 2019

The kiss Jeongguk and Lisa had the other day was long forgotten, as Jeongguk stood nervously inside the VIP room of *Pierre Gagnaire à Séoul*, a fancy French restaurant just 15 minutes away from their apartment complex.

Taehyung had taken the liberty of choosing which restaurant they would dine in as he said he wanted a *sophisticated* ambiance for them and the girls - any restaurant would be fine, *really*, but Jeongguk knew that his members wanted to make an impression, hence the fancy restaurant name.

Plus, the seven of them were wearing clothes fit for a red carpet. *Again*, Taehyung had said, *it's for the ambiance*. Yoongi had grumbled but once Taehyung starts something, you can't stop him.

Now, he and his hyungs were sitting down surrounding a long table fit for 12 people - all famished. Lisa had said that they were on their way, and Jeongguk couldn't help but fidget.

"Hey, Guk, you okay?" Namjoon asked, seeing him bouncing his knees on the floor repeatedly.

His eyes turned to him, replying, "Kind of. I mean, the girls and I have met already but I still get intimidated by Jennie."

Namjoon chuckled, "Jennie has always been like that, ever since we were younger."

Younger? The information surprised him, "You've known her before?"

"Actually, yes. I went to New Zealand a while back and I met her there. It was just quick though, I had to return to Korea but she and I developed some sort of friendship." He tilted his head, "I thought you knew."

"Well, I never did."

A knock on the door interrupted their conversation.

Alarmed, Jeongguk looked at each of his hyungs who were already standing up in the eye and mouthed, *be nice*.

The door opened, and a *gorgeous* Jennie slowly entered, "Is this the right room?" Her eyes flitted around until it landed on Namjoon, "*Joonie!*" She immediately walked to him and pecked his cheek. "How have you been? Oh, I'm sorry, good evening,

everyone." She bowed, stepping back, his hyungs doing the same. She gave them all her infamous gummy smile, making Jeongguk's insides churn. That smile never means good news.

"Geez, Jen, could you slow down?" Jisoo's voice sounded. She entered the room next, clad in Dior from head to toe. As soon as she saw them, she bowed, "Hello, everyone."

Rosé immediately followed - dressed in leather from Saint Laurent. Her eyes automatically turned into crescents and like the others, she bowed as well. "Hello." She greeted in a melodic voice that made Taehyung's jaw drop.

"Even her speaking voice sounds like she's singing," He whispered in Jeongguk's ear. *Typical Tae*, he thought. He has been a fan of them ever since their performance at the AAA 2016.

And lastly, his girlfriend entered last, wearing a paintsuit that accentuated her long, *long* legs. *Holy shit*.

"Hello, everyone. Sorry, I'm late. Had to check if there were someone following us." She sheepishly grinned. He took this as a cue to go to her side and kissed her temple - just for show. "You look good." She muttered as he stood beside her, making him grin.

"I always do," He gave her a wink.

"We all know what happened the last time they followed me." Jennie joked, but everyone in the room knew that it meant more than that.

"Let's not get awkward, shall we?" Lisa said, clapping her hands, "Everyone, these are my unnies, Jennie, Jisoo, and Rosé!"

"But you can call me Chaeyoung or just Chaeng," The said girl interrupted with an adorable smile, earning small chuckles from the boys.

"They may be intimidating but they're the sweetest girls in the planet." Lisa added with a smile.

Jeongguk was about to introduce his members as well when Namjoon spoke, "I'm sure you all know we are by now but for formalities, hello, girls. I'm Namjoon." The girls chortled, "And these are our members, introduce yourself please."

And they all did, starting from Jin, Yoongi, Hoseok, Jimin, to Taehyung. Jeongguk was surprised to see how welcoming his hyungs were, the same with Lisa's unnies. Maybe, *just maybe*, they'd be able to create a friendship between their groups.

"Well, what are we waiting for? Let's sit down." Namjoon gestured to the chairs and everyone followed suit, Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata* playing in the background.

"I feel like we're doing a meeting right now," Jisoo commented as she settled into her seat next to Jin, "Does your company know that you're meeting with us?"

"Nah. If they knew, they wouldn't let us anyway." Jeongguk responded, "What did you tell your manager?"

"That we were going to eat outside." Jennie shrugged, "I told him the place was fancy as hell, hence why we came wearing designer clothing. I guess he bought it."

"That's Chanel, right?" Taehyung inserted, gesturing to her cotton tweed jacket. He had an eye for designer clothing, alright.

Jennie shot him a wink, "Precisely." She cleared her throat, "Anyway, I'm sure you all know why we're here."

"Now this is a meeting." Seokjin pointed out, earning a glare from Jennie.

"Our maknaes have decided to... what do you call this? Involve themselves in a relationship with each other," She continued, "I'm not against it, to be honest, since I've been in one as well but I just would like to say something to you, *Jeon Jeongguk*," She spat his name like a curse. *Oh God.* He thought, *here she goes.*

All eyes turned to him. Lisa gripped his hand under the table, as if to reassure him.

"If you ever hurt our Lisa in any way, physically, emotionally, and mentally—" Her eyes turn to slits, "I will personally go to wherever you are and drag your ass to the *depths* of hell." She crossed her arms, "Although I know you've already done so, regarding your fight last month. I'm letting it go just this once but if it happens again, you're *dead meat*."

"I think the same goes for Lisa, too." Yoongi suddenly spoke up, making Jennie look at him, "I don't want to deliver the same *boring* ass speech as she did, but you get the point."

"Excuse me?"

Lisa held Jennie's shoulder, "Unnie—"

Jeongguk took this as a cue to say, "I promise I won't, noona. I love Lisa too much to even hurt her." He heard Jimin snort, making him snap his head to him, "Hey, Chaeng."

"Yes?" The girl asked, turning her head from Taehyung to look at him. How they both managed to engage in a conversation, Jeongguk didn't know.

"Did you know that Jimin here," He pointed to the guy, "likes your voice?"

Jimin's eyes widened, "Guk, you're a—"

"And did you know," He continued, "He often listens to your *Eyes Closed* cover?" Jimin looked like he wanted to bury himself alive now.

Chaeyoung looked amused, "Wow, I never would've thought that. Thank you so much, Jimin-ssi." The guy gave a her an awkward smile and scooted closer to her and Taehyung. *Wow, the nerve.*

"I think we should stop with the formalities," Namjoon suggested, "Since I already know we're all going to be great friends." He gestured to everyone in the table.

Chaeyoung, Jimin, and Taehyung were already talking, the girl looking interested in whatever Taehyung was telling them and Jimin butting in every few seconds or so - possibly gaining confidence from Jeongguk's revelation.

At the opposite side of the table, Jeongguk could hear Jin telling Jisoo, "Can we take a selfie? You look so much like me, it's awesome." with Jisoo responding, "I know, right? You don't see this kind of face everyday." To which Jin high fived her.

On the other hand, he could see Jennie, Namjoon, and Yoongi in a conversation - Namjoon seeming to be introducing Jennie to Yoongi, ignoring their little exchange a while ago. He knew Jennie had an admiration for his hyungs' rap skills though, probably why Yoongi joined in the conversation.

Next to him, Lisa and Hoseok were laughing on some dumb joke his hyung had said.

They were all getting together really well - under thirty minutes.

"Lis," He heard Hoseok say, "Have you ever thought of joining *Hit the Stage?*"

Lisa shrugged, "I did but you know YG," She rolled her eyes, "They suck."

Hoseok almost choked on his water upon hearing it, "Wow. She's straight to the point, huh?"

Jeongguk smiled, "It depends on her mood."

The bell inside the room rang, quieting everyone. The doors opened, revealing three waiters carrying trays filled with numerous plates - their first course.

As soon as it was placed on their table, Seokjin announced, "*Bon appetit.*"

Everyone dug in to their food, each eager and hungry. The sound of utensils clicking filled the room, along with chatters from everyone around the table.

"So," Hoseok started, "You guys never told us your love story."

Lisa's hand immediately went to his knee, panicked.

Smoothly, he replied, "Well, actually, we started as just friends, you know. Bambam introduced me to her and from then on we kind of developed a friendship." It was the same story he'd told Jisoo and the rest of the girls. Thank God he still memorised it.

"Oh, really? When did you make it official?" Jimin asked, "Was it the day I caught you texting her?"

"We made it official last March." Lisa answered for him. His members nodded in understanding.

"I don't even know what she sees in me," He added, looking at her lovingly. He had no idea why, but he grabbed her hand under the table and gave it a squeeze.

Jennie's eyes widened, "I was just wondering the same thing." That earned her a deadly look from Jisoo.

■

The rest of the dinner went well, their members surprisingly becoming comfortable with each other. The entire room was filled with their voices, talking about whatever comes into their minds.

Eventually, they all ordered a bottle of wine - much to Chaeng's excitement. They weren't allowed to drink, but since Jeongguk and Lisa were breaking they rules, they might as well follow suit.

"A toast," Namjoon started standing up, the rest following, "For both our groups, for Jeongguk and Lisa, and for the friendship we've created." They all clinked their glasses and drank.

"Wow, one shot, huh?" Chaeyoung jokingly asked, appearing beside Lalisa. "Wine tastes good?"

"Very." She smiled at her bestfriend, "What did you guys talk about?" She asked, referring to her, Taehyung, and Jimin.

The girl shrugged, "Nothing much. Just about our lives, you know. I actually even teared up a little when Jimin talked about his mom."

Lisa snorted, "You always do that whenever someone talks about their mom. Remember Joy?"

"Can't blame me."

She chuckled again, turning back to their members. The both of them were quiet for a while.

That is, until Chaeyoung spoke again, "You really love him, don't you?"

"Mmm?" Lisa turned back to her, "What makes you say that?" Love? Pft.

"You have this look in your eyes whenever you look at him," Chaeyoung smiled to herself, "It's as if he hung the moon and the stars."

"What? I don't."

"Oh, shush, Lalisa. It's pretty obvious, you know." She waved her off, "I haven't seen you exert that much effort into somebody ever since you entered YG." Chaeng played with her glass, "Every free time you get, you spend it with him. Whenever he's injured, you're worried sick. When you guys text each other, you have this stupid smile in your face that I want to erase."

"And?" Lisa didn't know what she was asking, but she wanted to hear her next words anyway.

"And the same thing goes for him. Although, he loves you more."

"Wow, what an insult."

Chaeyoung slapped her arm lightly, "It's true, idiot." She shrugged, "You know, on your birthday, we were actually surprised on how polite he was. He asked us about what you like, what food you prefer, your hobbies, etcetera." The corner of her mouth tilted up, "Jennie was against it at first, but eventually, she gave in. You noticed that she went easy on him a while ago? It's because the guy was really determined. He came into our apartment that other day instead of heading to his own to rest. Mind you, he had an 11 hour flight from a Paris and he went straight to our place.

"Plus, remember that time when you fought and I was your bridge? He was asking me questions like how were you doing, if you were sleeping well, if you're eating three meals a day, if you were getting enough rest and stuff like that. Heck, he even had me print an apology letter and buy a single rose just for you."

Lisa was silent all throughout. *Jeongguk loving... her?* It was impossible. What they had was fake... yet...

"And that time where he flew from the other side of America just to see you? Good God, he just stayed for a few hours for you and then left. If that isn't love then I don't know what is."

Lisa remembered the way he stared at her, with pure adoration and love in his eyes. The way they danced that night on her birthday, the way he sang to her when she couldn't sleep the other day. *Could it be?* But he said no feelings should be involved...

"Excuse me, I need air." She wanted to go to the balcony as she needed a place to think, and the room was not helping. She heard Chaeyoung mutter *sure* before wandering off to God knows where.

As soon as the quietness of the balcony greeted her, all her thoughts came crashing down.

She liked Jeongguk, alright. She liked him *too* much, but she didn't know if it can be considered as love. Sure, she cared for his well-being and for him yet...

Does she love him?

He makes her feel all these odd things whenever he says something that makes her laugh... her heart does flips whenever he teases her... *what does this all mean?*

She didn't even know if he loved her back. If what Chaeyoung said was true, then what does this all mean? What does this mean for the both of them? Where do they both stand?

Lisa had too many questions. Too many questions and no answers.

Goddammit.

"Why the long face?" A voice said from behind her. She already knew who it was.

“Guk,” She groaned, “Shut up.”

“Chill, darling,” He stood at her side by the railing, “What are you doing here?”

Jeongguk stood a *little* too close to her, but she didn’t mind. He looked ravishing, with his black turtle neck and the sleeves rolled up to his elbows, that detail making Lisa feel things that she shouldn’t... *what the hell, Lisa*.

“Just thinking,” She answered simply.

“Go ahead then, I’ll keep my mouth shut.”

And he did.

Silence engulfed them both, but even that didn’t help her case. How could she think when the man she was thinking about was right beside her? Instead, she opted to just look at the magnificent view of Seoul below, him doing the same.

“Do you know,” He started, “That you have the loveliest side profile I’ve ever seen?”

“If you don’t stop lying, I’ll throw you off this railing.”

“Wow, darling, you really make my heart flutter,” He sarcastically responded, “But it’s true, though.”

“Thanks, I guess.” She turned her head, already finding him looking at her. Their close proximity made her heart beat faster, but she didn’t mind. She didn’t realize how close they were until she could already take a whiff of his hypnotic perfume, “Why... why are you so close?”

“I don’t know either,” He replied lowly, looking into her eyes.

Lisa knew it was wrong timing, but still she felt like she needed to say it, “Listen, Guk, about that kiss the other day,” She licked her lips, “I’m sorry, I didn’t—“

“No, no, it’s fine.” He shook his head, still looking at her, “In fact...”

When he didn’t continue, she asked, “In fact what?”

“In fact...” His gaze fell to her lips, “I would like to do it again.”

Lisa blinked. *Again?* “W-what?”

“But if you don’t want to, then—“

“Guk.” She interrupted, “Just... just kiss me.” *What did I just say?*

Heat rose from her stomach to her chest as the space between them diminished. One of his hands moved to cup her face, his thumb caressing her cheek. Her heart skip a beat as finally, *finally* his lips touched hers – soft and gentle.

He washed over her like a wave of warmth, unfurling all her thoughts as the taste of him silenced everything. She could not think of anything else, not the restaurant, not her members, not his members, not the city below them. She could only think of Jeongguk, of his hands on her cheek, on her waist.

She encircled her hands around his neck, pulling him closer, *needing* him to be closer. Her toes curled as he pressed his body to hers, the sensation bringing a tingling feeling to her skin.

Finally, he pulled away, resting his forehead to hers.

“*Darling*,” He murmured, breathless, “Has anyone ever told you that you’re a good kisser?”

She scoffed, “Of course.”

He pulled back to tilt his head, “Who?”

“Jennie did.”

That earned her a smack on her forehead.

Little did they know, Jennie was staring at them from behind the room with a small smile on her face, her heart feeling bittersweet.

Love, she thought sadly.

a/n: sorry for the late late update. this is actually the third time that i wrote this since wattpad decided to be a bitch and delete the previous two that i've written lol.

anyway, about joon and jennie meeting in new zealand way before, i actually saw that in youtube. they said that joon went to nz a few years back and there, he met jen. they became friends and eventually he had to go back to korea.

anyway, hope you all liked this. nanite!

30

JUNE 19, 2019

Last night's dinner made Jeongguk feel complete.

Complete in a sense that his hyungs approved of Lisa and her unnies approved of him. Not that they needed approval, anyway, because it was just a fake relationship - but still, it was nice to know that there were people who were supporting them. Somehow, that gave him hope. *Hope for what?*

After the dinner and more wine glasses, they've decided to head home to rest as Chaeyoung got a little drunk that she tried to sing an opera on the top of her lungs on the balcony. It was pretty understandable since she doesn't drink much and was a lightweight, but it didn't stop the fact that they all had a great laugh as Jennie and Jimin pried her off the railing.

After paying for the bill, each of them headed to their own vans, but not before Jeongguk kissed Lisa for the second time that night.

Oh, right. The kiss.

He had zero idea as to why he told her that he wanted to kiss her again. Maybe it was the alcohol? The scenario? The vibe? *No idea.* He didn't regret it one bit, though. Lalisa's lips were *heavenly*.

But that made him think. If they kissed, what did it mean for the both of them? Are they both feeling the same thing? Does she like him as he likes her?

Admittedly, he *does* like her. He has been feeling this way now ever since she kissed him in their dorm that night. It was confirmed when he couldn't sleep even if he only had a 3-hour nap that day. Jetlag usually knocks him off, yet it didn't that particular day, all because of Lisa and her wonderful, plump lips.

So, in conclusion he likes her more than a friend and more than he should.

But the problem here is, how does he let her know? He can't just simply blurt out, "*I like you,*" in the middle of nowhere because that might surprise her. So he figured, why not take her out? He was missing her, anyway, they haven't been fully alone for months now except that time where he visited her In Newark.

That explains why they were in Myeongdeong Shopping District, standing in the middle of the street food stalls in their usual

disguises.

"What do you wanna eat, darling?" Jeongguk asked through his mask. He was in his black outfit, from his cap to his shoes. He didn't have time to think about another outfit as he was rushing to pick Lisa up from her apartment.

"You." She replied, making his eyes widen, "You wish." She added, "I want to try that, though." She pointed to a nearby stall displaying the popular Korean cheese lobster.

"Shut it, Lali. I know you want me," He jokingly winked at her, to which she slapped his arm lightly, "Cheese lobster coming right up."

He returned a few minutes later, holding a box in each hand filled with cheese-covered lobster. He found Lalisa standing in front of another stall, eyes locked onto whatever the woman was cooking.

"What is that?" She asked as he stood beside her. His eyes turned to the woman, who was now pulling a potato down a barbecue stick.

"Ah," He mused, remembering what it was, "That's a tornado potato."

"Tornado potato?" She repeated with her brows scrunched, making her look more adorable than she already was. "Can we buy this one?"

"Sure." His hand went to his pocket to grab his wallet when she stopped him.

"It's on me, Guk." She held out her hand filled with cash to the woman and said, "Two please."

Jeongguk rolled his eyes, "I'm trying to be a gentleman here but you're just ruining my vibe."

Lisa kissed his cheek, her mouth covered by her mask. Still, it made his heart flutter, "I'll let you pay the next time, ugly. Let's sit there." She pointed to a small bench at the further end of the chain of stalls, barely seen from a far as it was surrounded by various trees.

The both of them went to it, careful and aware of their surroundings. One slip of their masks and caps and they'll all be dead. He tried to keep his head down, afraid that he might be recognized because of his eyes. He saw Lisa doing the same.

"Finally," She breathed in relief as they escaped the crowd, "We can eat in peace."

"You sure you don't want more?" He asked, placing the food in the space between them as he sat down.

Lisa hummed, handing him one of the sticks she was holding, "Let's finish this one first and then buy some more, okay?"

"Okay, mom."

He watched intently as Lisa picked on the lobster with her

chopsticks. She looked like a little bunny, with her big brown eyes as she looked at the food. Slowly, she grabbed a piece and brought it to her mouth.

"Good?" He asked as she chewed.

Her eyes twinkled in delight as she looked at him again, "This is the best shit ever." To which he laughed.

"If you want more, just tell me, yeah?" She nodded eagerly, taking another bite of her food. He dug into his own tornado potato, the flavor exploding in his mouth. He couldn't remember the last time he had eaten street food - as he was always on a strict diet. *I forgot how good this was.*

Lalisa cleared her throat out of a sudden, making him look at her, "When's your next schedule?"

He tilted his head, trying to remember, "Next schedule... I think it would be on the 22nd, for our 5th muster."

"Wow, I'm jealous. Mine would be at the 21st, I'd be going to Paris for CELINE." She sighed, "I wish we'd stop acting like models and have promotions instead."

"Don't lose hope now, Lis. Maybe YG would give you another comeback by the end of the year." He tried to reassure her, to no avail.

"He wouldn't. I just know it." She raised her head to look at him, "Can I have a little bit of your lobster?"

Jeongguk raised his brows as he realized that she was finished with her own. "Oh... sure. But... it's the last one."

She blinked and said, "Never mind. It's yours."

"No, no," He found himself disagreeing, "Open your mouth."

Lisa gave him a look, but opened her mouth otherwise.

"Here comes the airplane," He raised his chopsticks to the air, moved his hands up and down until it reached the entrance of her mouth, "Say *ah!*"

She rolled her eyes but uttered an unenthusiastic *ah* as she caught the food in her mouth, "You didn't have to do that, you know."

"I'm just trying to be a good boyfriend here." He shrugged, "Hey,"

"Mmm?" She asked, taking a bite of her potato.

His hands went to her bangs, moving it out of the way to reveal her forehead, "You should stop having bangs for once, Lis. I wanna see your glorious forehead during award shows."

"You wish. My forehead is only exclusive for my cats." She squealed as he moved his hand from her forehead to pinch her cheeks. "Stop that!"

He threw his head back to laugh, "Couldn't help it, you look like a fluffy pancake."

She huffed, "Whatever."

"You look even cuter when you're mad." She was crossing her arms now, her mouth formed into a pout. "Tell you what, how about you put your mask on again and stay here while I get us some water?"

Her eyes turned to him and she nodded, "Alright, but put your mask on, too. We don't want a pack of rabid fans chasing us all the way to the Han River."

"Yes, ma'am." He stood up and gave her another look, "I have to tell you something when I return, wait here." He knew it was time for him to say it, and he couldn't wait until later.

As Jeongguk walked back to the food stalls, he couldn't help but wonder how he was going to start confessing to her. Does he start with the words *hey, Lali, I have been meaning to tell you something* or *I know you'll be mad at me but I actually like you?* He didn't know where to begin, to be honest.

He went to a food stall selling egg bread and said to the woman, "Two bottles of water and two *gyeran-bbang*, please." The woman took the money out of his hands when suddenly, someone touched his arm.

Turning around, he came face to face with three teenage girls, all looking up at him with amazement in their eyes. *Holy fucking shit.*

"Jeongguk oppa!" The girl in front of him shrieked, "It really is you!"

"Can we take a picture?"

"I love you!"

"Uh, no, I'm not Jeongguk." He tried to speak but the other girls started to grab his hand, his shirt, his arms, *everywhere* they could. *I am in deep shit.*

Other girls were also starting to hear their conversation because of the loud volume and they started to crowd around him, murmuring incoherent words.

He took it as a signal to grab the plastic bag the woman was holding for him and ran back to the bench where he left Lisa.

He found her at the same spot, mask on, and scrolling through her phone.

"Fans, hurry!" He told her, grabbing her hand as they sprinted through Myeongdeong's shopping district. She followed him easily, running by his side as he lead them to God knows where.

An alley... an alley... where is a nearby alley? He thought, panicked as they tried to fit through the crowd. Everyone was giving him looks of disgust as he tried to push through them. His head turned back, trying to find the fangirls as he locked eyes with the girl he talked to earlier.

"There he is!" There were 10 to 15 girls with her now, *what the*

fuck.

"Guk, turn right!" Lisa pulled his hand to the right, turning into another intersection where there was a larger crowd. They pushed through them as usual, his eyes searching around for an alley or a place where they could hide.

"There's an alley over there!" He said through his gritted teeth and the girl understood. They slowed their footsteps and ducked their heads as they carefully trudged through the crowd, heading to the alley as discreetly as possible.

Lisa immediately spotted a dumpster, "Guk," She said in a low voice, rushed, "Get inside the dumpster. Now."

"Darling, you're not-"

"I'll follow right after, now go." She opened the dumpster for him and watched as he went inside. She checked the alley's entrance for the intruders and followed suit when she deemed it safe.

As Lisa closed the dumpster, the heat and the smell hit her nose. Luckily, there was only one garbage bag inside, making it fit for two people. "It's so hot in here." She scrunched her nose.

"It was your idea." Jeongguk replied, coming closer to her.

"If we didn't jump in your fans would've attacked us right there and we'd be exposed." She argued back in a murmur. He couldn't really see her face because of the darkness, but he knew she was frowning.

"Yeah, whatever. Thanks, darling." He tried to touch her face but was met with a pinch on his nose instead, "Ow!"

"Do you want them to open this dumpster and see us-"

"Where did he go?" A voice said from nearby, making them freeze. "He was just here!"

"He was with that girl!"

"Was that his girlfriend?"

"Probably just a friend-"

"They were holding hands, you idiot!"

"Ugh, that bitch. Let's go look further. There's no way they could've left this place without anyone spotting them."

The voices grew distant and they both released the breaths they were holding.

"I guess we're dead meat." Lisa sighed, "What are we gonna do now once the rumours start?"

"Deny it, obviously." He replied, ruffling his hair. "I don't think they saw your face though, they only saw me at the food stall and not at the bench."

She face palmed, "But still, it's possible that they've seen us! Ugh, how could we be so stupid?"

"Great minds think alike."

She slapped his arm, "How could you be so calm in this? I'm literally shaking... I don't know what my CEO would do when he finds out."

"We could have your unnies cover up for you." He suggested, finding her hand in the darkness. It was sweaty and indeed, shaking. He tried to calm her down by rubbing circles in her palm.

"Oh, God. I feel like I'm about to shit." She released a breath, "Guk, I think we should lay low for a while."

He hid his disappointment in his tone as he said, "I know. You'll be going to Paris anyway and I'll be busy with the muster. A week will do, I think."

It was quiet for a while before she replied, "Yeah, I think so, too."

Aware of how much she's shaking, he pulled her in, encircling his arms around her. "We'll be fine, darling, *you'll be fine*. They didn't see you." He murmured, caressing her hair in reassurance.

"I'm scared, Guk." She sniffed. Only then he realised that she was crying and he pulled away to grab his phone and turn the flashlight on.

Indeed, her cheeks were streaked with tears as she looked at him with fear in her eyes. The sight of her broke his heart.

Gently, he lowered down his mask and closed the distance between them, kissing her tears away, and finally, her nose.

"Nothing's going to happen, Lali." He pulled her again in his arms, kissing her temple. "I'm sorry for dragging you into this mess." It was his fault for bringing her here, and now he was starting to regret it.

His confession can wait. The girl in his arms was so much more important than what he was going to say.

▪□

SOOMPI: BTS Jungkook caught on a date with anonymous girl

Kpop Starz: BTS Jungkook, dating?

ALLKPOP: BTS Jungkook and mysterious girlfriend caught holding hands in Myeongdeong

Jeongguk stared as articles after articles flooded his Twitter feed.

He was *so, so, so, so, so* relieved he wanted to yell on the top of his lungs. They didn't know the girl he was with was Lisa.

Thank the heavens.

He had dropped Lisa off to her apartment complex after spending thirty minutes in the dumpster and went straight to his dorm afterwards. He informed Namjoon about what happened and sad to say, their leader was frustrated. He fabricated a believable story for Jeongguk and Lalisa in case things didn't go as expected.

But it doesn't seem to be needed after all.

"Guk," Hoseok said from the kitchen door, surprising him, "The CEO wants to meet you in the office right now."

Here goes.

31

The woman stared at the photos laid out in front of her.

She took one, slowly bringing it closer for inspection. She tilted it, her head following the motion.

"Are you sure this is her?" She asked the man standing in front of her. He had arrived ten minutes ago to show her the progress of the assignment she had given and it was safe to say that he exceeded her expectations.

The man nodded, "Yes, ma'am. I've asked various witnesses and they've all said the same thing - down to every detail."

The woman turned her cold eyes to him yet he remained stoic and void of expression. "Very well," She straightened her back, "Your payment has been sent by my secretary to your bank account. You may go."

He bowed once more, and left the room soundlessly.

Alone again, the woman sighed as she looked at the pictures.

Just what am I going to do with you?

■

JUNE 20, 2019

8:40 am

JEONGGUK

good morning
sunshine

LALISA

good morning,
guk

how did last
night go?

JEONGGUK

nothing bad
happened, if
you're wondering
the CEO wanted
to know what
really happened
and I told him

LALISA

what?!

so he knows
about my
nudes now?!

JEONGGUK
chill

no, he doesn't
I told him
a different
story

LALISA

well thank
goodness
I can't bear
another person
seeing my body

JEONGGUK

I told him it
was a childhood
friend of mine
from busan

and that we
were just
hanging around
after such a
long time

LALISA

did he believe it?

JEONGGUK

i'm texting you
now, aren't I?

LALISA

that's good news
jisoo gave me
a lecture last
night

thank God
they forgot
about the bet

LOOOL

JEONGGUK
oh yeah that bet
how's it going?

LALISA

fine ofc

we haven't
been caught lol

JEONGGUK

lol ikr

being busy
has its perks

LALISA

yea lol

only a month
left, right???

JEONGGUK

yep haha

are you sad
about it?

LALISA

nahhhh

cus I know
we'll still
be friends
after

JEONGGUK

lol okay haha

LALISA

how's my
nudes???

still there?

JEONGGUK

well,,, duh

where else

LALISA

just making sure

JEONGGUK

hey

I just remembered
something

LALISA

mmm? what
is it

JEONGGUK

correct me if
I'm wrong

LALISA

I do that

JEONGGUK

no, silly
correct me if
I'm wrong for
what I'm about
to say

LALISA

oh okay

JEONGGUK

why did you
agree to this
fake relationship
thing again?

LALISA

i don't remember

JEONGGUK

I do
it's because of
the benefits
right?

9:00 am

JEONGGUK

lali

why are you
not replying??

LALISA

oh sorry!!!!

I just did something
what were we
talking about again

JEONGGUK

just read my
texts above

LALISA

Ohhhh right
the benefits lol
hahahahahahaha

JEONGGUK

yes the benefits
now I've been
wondering
we're almost
done with the
four months

yet we haven't
done anything
past kissing
and that blow
why so?

LALISA

hahhahahahahahahaha

lolzzzz

JEONGGUK

not that I
want to do it
but I do remember
you telling me that
you love sex
soooo what happened?

LALISA

lol its because
we barely
have time
together hahaha

JEONGGUK

but we had plenty
of time before

LALISA

it's because you
were a stranger
to me back then

JEONGGUK

so are you implying
that you only have
sex with the people
you know?

again, I'm just
wondering. I'm
not telling you
to do it

LALISA

no!!!!

JEONGGUK

are you perhaps...

LALISA

perhaps what?

JEONGGUK

are you, perhaps,

falling for me?

LALISA

WOW THE NERVE

JEONGGUK

just voicing out
my thoughts

so?

LALISA

noooo!!!

ofc not

I stick by
the rules,
you know

JEONGGUK

well, good

It'd be awkward
if you do
but I'd understand
if you fall for me

I'm ravishing,
after all

LALISA

□□□

JEONGGUK

it's true

LALISA

suck my tits
junglebook

JEONGGUK

where

LALISA

fuck you
I'll take a
bath now

JEONGGUK

OOF so that's
where the
smell came from

ew

LALISA

i hate you

JEONGGUK

I know you
love me

LALISA

ok lol bye

JEONGGUK

hugs and kisses!

▪□

JUNE 21, 2019

4:30 am

JEONGGUK

good morning

darling

just woke up

gonna go practice

for tomorrow's

muster

i probably

won't text much

but take care

on your flight

to paris

eat three meals

a day, yeah?

sending you

all my love

7:14 am

LALISA

good morning

junglebook

i will ☺

you too,

don't skip

your meals

i'm gonna

prepare now

text you later

8:30 am

off to the

airport ;(

9:24 am

at the airport

ugh there

are so many

reporters

10:04 am

boarding

11:00 am
the plane is
taking too long
 jdjxijsjfcj
 take care,
junglebook!!

12:01 pm
JEONGGUK
it's lunch time!!!
 glad to know
 you're safe, lali
 imma eat

10:00 pm
LALISA
about to land
 i'm tired as hell
and i haven't
even left the
plane yet

JEONGGUK
heeeeey
 its 10 pm here

LALISA
its 2 pm here
 ugh

JEONGGUK
sleep darling

LALISA
i will, once we
arrive at the hotel

JEONGGUK
we're preparing
to go home now

LALISA
take care ugly

JEONGGUK
stop talking
to yourself

LALISA
did you eat dinner?

JEONGGUK
yes ma'am
 you?

LALISA

i had airplane
food for lunch

10:49 pm

JEONGGUK

hey darling
at home alr
i'm gonna go
to bed now
i know you're
already asleep
hahahaha
sleep tight!

▪□

JUNE 22, 2019

6:25 am

LALISA

i just woke up
from an 8
hour nap
it's 10 smth
here in paris

JEONGGUK

hey i was
just done
eating breakfast
how's your
sleep?

LALISA

it was great
busy day
today, huh?
goodluck,
junglebook

JEONGGUK

yeaaaaa
text you later
sweetheart

LALISA

sure, sure
i'll go back
to sleep
anyway
bye bye 

JEONGGUK



11:51 pm

JEONGGUK

done with
the muster
already at
the apartment

LALISA

hey, guk
about to
sleep?

JEONGGUK

yea :/
come back
soon, okay?
i kinda miss
you lmao

LALISA

hahahahahaha
i will
i'm walking
around paris
right now
let's meet
when i return,
okay?

JEONGGUK

yay
26th, right?

LALISA

yeppp
sleep, guk
you need it

JEONGGUK

thanks darling
take care of
yourself

goodnight 🌙

LALISA

goodnightttt ☺

a/n: question, what is your favorite scene in this book?

32

JUNE 26, 2019

The woman turned her head around just as the doors of her office closed, "Yes?"

Her secretary bowed before replying, "She is to arrive later at 6pm KST."

She nodded in understanding, "Good. Do I have any schedules set for tonight?"

The secretary looked back down on her tablet and shook her head, "None, ma'am. Should I arrange for you to meet her?"

"No, don't mind it. I'll have someone pick her up later instead. Surely, she's free this evening, right?"

"Yes, ma'am. She has a free schedule until July 3rd."

The woman clapped her hands, "That settles it. You may go now."

Without any more words, her secretary bowed and left the room.

■

6:09 am

JEONGGUK

AHHHH you're
finally going
home!!!!!!

are you at
the airport
right now??

LALISA

yuuup
it's 10pm

here rn

flight is at 11
another excruciating
eleven hours grrrr

JEONGGUK

you'd be arriving
here tonight?

LALISA

sadly, yes
do you still

wanna meet
though?

JEONGGUK

of course

been wanting
to see my
beautiful gf
after a week

:""")

LALISA

oh shut it
junglebook

JEONGGUK

you can eat
dinner here,
if you want
lol

LALISA

mmm that
sounds nice
you'll cook?

JEONGGUK

of course
I don't cook
that much but
I'd do it for you
so you better
be grateful or
else

LALISA

well I am
grateful

JEONGGUK

what do you
want to eat?

LALISA

surprise me

JEONGGUK

would you
prefer having
me for desert?

LALISA

gladly ;)))

JEONGGUK

wow hahahaha
anyways I think
you should catch
up on sleep
we'll text later

LALISA

sure
I'll text you
once I land,
yeah???

JEONGGUK

take care lali

☺□

LALISA

I will junglebook

"Who are you texting?" A voice from behind her suddenly asked. Surprised, Lalisa immediately closed her phone and put it inside her bag. *That was close.*

"Hey, don't scare me like that." She told her manager, who was now shrugging, "That was Jennie. She told me we'd have dinner at the new fried chicken place tonight." The lies rolled off her tongue easily that she felt bad. *I'm sorry.*

"You keep on smiling at your phone, you look like Annabelle."

She snorted, "Whatever. Do I have any schedules tonight?"

The guy tilted his head, "No, I don't think so. You're free as a bird."

"Thank goodness." Lisa's eyebrows scrunched, "Say, did CEO Yang give a feedback to that song Jisoo submitted last month? We were anticipating for a reply but we got nothing."

Lisa caught Jisoo listening to an unknown song in her phone two months ago. Curious, she had played it when Jisoo wasn't in the room and discovered that she'd made it herself. Dumbfounded because of how good it was, she encouraged her member to send it to the CEO so he could give her a feedback - and she did, with nags from Jennie, of course.

"Sadly, no. CEO Yang would probably never hear it."

She turned fully to him, "What? What do you mean he'll *never* hear it? Isn't he in his office all the time?"

Bo Kyung sighed, "I forgot to inform you."

"Inform me of what?"

"There has been a change in the company. CEO Yang and his brother have been kicked out of YG due to a *scandal* and a new CEO has been appointed."

Lisa raised her brows. *How did I not know this?* She thought, *Oh,*

right. I was busy with Jeongguk, "And you're telling me this now?"

"I thought you knew even if I didn't tell you. It was all over the news."

"When did it happen?"

"Just a few days ago," He leaned back in his seat, "You were busy touring, after all. I couldn't blame you."

"So... when will we be meeting the new CEO? Is he from the company as well?"

"It's not a *he*, it's a *she*."

Flabbergasted was an understatement for what she felt.

The new CEO is a woman? Lisa suddenly felt hopeful. If she was a woman, that could mean no more misogynistic behaviour from the company and BLACKPINK would have more comebacks - just like what they wished for.

Well, that is, if the CEO cared.

"That's... *new*." She muttered, "Did you meet her already?"

"Not yet." He stood up, "Soon though, at next month's meeting. Now, get up and let's board the plane. Wouldn't want to be late for your fried chicken dinner, would you?"

Lisa rolled her eyes and followed, checking her bag for her boarding pass, and left.

■

Yoongi kept on giving him weird looks as he worked in the kitchen.

Jeongguk couldn't blame him, after all, since he barely cooks and if he does, that means he's up to something - and he was.

Lalisa was going to eat dinner here tonight and he had to impress her, that's why his hyungs were now making sure the entire apartment was spotless - Jimin and Taehyung mopping the floors, Hoseok vacuuming the dirt on the couches, Namjoon rearranging the shoe rack, and Yoongi and Jin helping him cook.

"Wow, you barely even cook for us, Guk, but look at you now, cooking for your girlfriend," Yoongi finally spoke, looking at him as he made vegetarian pad Thai, "My heart hurts."

Jeongguk scoffed, "I'll make you breakfast tomorrow, hyung. Don't worry." That earned him a grin from the guy.

From the stove next to him, Jin clapped his hands, "Chicken wings done. Do you want me to help you arranging that bibimbap?"

His eyes flitted to the two bibimbap lying on the table, "No, thanks, hyung. It's past 5 now, you'll probably be late for your dinner reservation."

His members were to leave the house at 5:30 to give him and Lisa *space*, as Taehyung called it. Instead of eating dinner at their dorm, they booked a reservation at a nearby restaurant - much to Hoseok's

excitement.

"All right, I think we're good to go." Jin looked around the kitchen once more and tapped his shoulder, "Enjoy your dinner, Guk. Use protection - *I have a box in my bedside table if you need any.*" He whispered the last part in his ear, making Jeongguk chuckle.

"Bye, Guk." Yoongi said as he left the kitchen. He gave a little wave to his hyungs before fishing out his phone from his pocket.

5:15 pm

JEONGGUK

head to my
place once
you arrive, ok?

Smiling to himself, Jeongguk resumed setting up the table.



Lalisa stretched her arms above her head as the plane touched the ground. *Freaking finally, back home again.*

"Fix yourself, Lis. There are reporters waiting for us outside the airport." Bo Kyung said from beside her, checking his belongings. She nodded.

Her phone buzzed, showing *NEW MESSAGE*. It was from Jeongguk, telling her to head to his place as soon as she arrived, to which she replied *I'm at the airport, going there in a bit. See you!*

Once the plane came to a stop, she and her team were able to get out as soon as possible. She headed to the entrance, greeted by numerous reporters holding cameras and the flash almost blinding her eyes. Lisa felt annoyed, but was able to get through because of her manager and her body guards.

She almost collapsed as she got inside the van, exhausted.

"Finally," She breathed, sitting down. "I'll head home now."

"Your luggage would be sent to your dorm later. I'll have one of the employees deliver it to your apartment." Her manager said, sitting right next to her.

"About that," A voice said from behind, the both of them shrieking in surprise.

Bo Kyung's eyes widened as he turned his head to the new arrival, "Secretary Gong? What are you doing here?"

"The CEO has sent me to pick Lisa up." The secretary replied, coming to view.

Lisa gulped, "The CEO?" *What did the CEO want with her?*

"Yes, the new CEO. She wanted to meet you as soon as you arrived."

She stammered, "B-but... I have plans tonight." She had dinner with Jeongguk and didn't want to miss it for the world, "Can we do

this another time?"

"It's just dinner with Jennie, I'm sure they'll understand." Her manager said, looking at her, "It must be important since Secretary Gong is here."

"But... I promised them..." She didn't want to let Jeongguk down. "They'd get mad at me."

"It's probably going to be a quick meeting, don't worry." He reassured her, but she didn't think so.

"The CEO is expecting you to meet her *right now* at this *instant* and that's final." Secretary Gong said in an authoritative voice. "The CEO has no available schedule except for tonight, so this is urgent."

Lisa sighed. *Why me out of a sudden?* She had no choice but it seemed like the meeting was urgent, "Alright." She opened her bag to get her phone, about to text Jeongguk when the secretary spoke again.

"No phones allowed."

She raised her head and put on a nervous smile, "I'm just gonna text my unnies to let them know."

"*They'll understand.*" The secretary repeated Bo Kyung's words, looking at her with such distaste in her eyes, "Give your phone to Manager Jung."

She blinked, "Excuse me? Why?" She couldn't understand this sudden change in the air. *What is wrong with this woman?*

"Lis, just give it to me. I'll hand it back after the meeting." Bo Kyung said in a low voice, nudging her, "I promise."

Lisa stared at her phone in her hands, *Jeongguk's gonna kill me.* Hesitantly, she handed it over.

The secretary gave her a smile, "Very well. Let's go to YG."

■

Jeongguk sprayed the air freshener one last time before checking his work.

He had scrubbed the kitchen walls to give it its previous shine, he had set up a bluetooth speaker playing Bolbbalgan4 songs to set the mood, and he lit candles at the table to give everything a romantic vibe. Hell, he even had a trail of rose petals at the entrance leading to the kitchen.

Lisa would probably laugh at him for it, but he didn't care.

He grabbed his phone from the coffee table in the living room and read Lisa's text again.

6:09 pm

LALISA

I'm at the airport,
going there in a bit.
See you!

He smiled and replied,

6:49 pm

JEONGGUK

where are youuu

you're taking

too long :(

She didn't reply.

Oh, well - she's probably on the way.

a/n: bitch y'all thought i wasn't gonna update, huh? jokes on YOU
char hahahaha

anw, happy birthday to our queen lalisa!!!! love u to the sun and
back

33

The double doors of the CEO's office never failed to make Lalisa's insides churn.

She'd been here countless times before - when she'd first arrived at YG Entertainment, when she was chosen to be a part of the Pink Punk lineup, when she was called for their postponed debut, when she was chosen to be a part of BLACKPINK, and many other times where she made mistakes that put the company into shame.

But right now, she didn't really know what the hell she was doing here. She tried to recount her memory... and came up with nothing. Lisa did not do anything wrong - well, at least that's what it seemed like to her.

Manager Jung opened the doors, stepping aside to let her in first. They both exchanged a knowing glance before she entered, expecting to see the new CEO but found no one.

As if noticing her distress, Secretary Gong spoke, "The CEO would arrive shortly. She still had a business dinner with one of our investors but she's on her way now."

Lisa nodded, "Alright." *Whatever.*

No one inside uttered a word as the minutes passed by. She could sense the growing tension from her manager, since it was his first time meeting the new CEO was well. Secretary Gong was just standing there at the corner, her eyes glued to her tablet.

The sight of her alone made Lisa want to throw a pillow at her head.

Refraining herself from doing so, she resorted to checking her watch again - but what she saw made eyes widen like saucers. *It's fucking 7:20 pm.*

Jeongguk.

"Manager Jung," She started, disturbing the silence in the room, "Can I borrow my phone, please? I need to text my unnies. I told them I'd treat them tonight and they're probably expecting me." She spoke hurriedly, thinking of Jeongguk. He must be worried sick now.

"There's no need," Secretary Gong said from the corner, looking up from her tablet, "I've already informed Jennie so you don't need to worry about anything."

She nodded, fists clenched, "Manager Jung... can I..." Lisa trailed

off, not knowing what excuse to say. She kept her mouth shut instead and lowered her eyes to the ground. *Great, Lalisa.*

Jeongguk was probably wondering where she was right now.

Shit.

■

Jeongguk stared at his phone.

It was thirty minutes past 7 now, and Lalisa still wasn't here. He'd sent her a string of messages yet she didn't read any of them and all his calls went immediately to voice mail. *Where the hell was she?*

His eyes turned to the still-burning candles atop the table. It had been burning like that for an hour and the wax was already melted halfway through. Sighing, he blew the candles - dimming the entire room.

The food that he'd prepared had gone cold and the bluetooth speaker needed to be recharged. It stopped playing a few minutes ago, much to his annoyance. He had to buy a new one - *again.*

Maybe the traffic was heavy or something, he thought as he checked his phone once more.

Like always, there was no reply.

■

After thirty excruciating minutes of waiting, the CEO finally arrived.

By this time, Lalisa turned from calm and collected to fidgety and anxious. She couldn't stop her fingers from shaking as who seemed to be like the CEO entered the room. Pale with long black hair, shorter than her by a few inches. She had an air of elegance around her as she greeted the three of them with a nod.

"Sorry for the tardiness, everyone, Mr. Choi was insistent," She said with a chuckle as she settled into her seat, "I'm Hwang Bo-kyung, new CEO of YG Entertainment."

Automatically, her manager went forward and shook her hand, "I am Jung Bo Kyung, ma'am, BLACKPINK's manager."

"And I am Lisa, a member of BLACKPINK." She dipped her chin as she shook her hand.

The CEO gave them a small smile, "I apologize for this urgent meeting. I don't have any available schedules except for tonight so I knew I had to meet you, Lalisa."

She tilted her head, "Um, may I ask why, CEO Hwang?"

"I've met with the rest of the board the other day and we discussed about you - your group specifically," The CEO pulled out a stack of papers in her desk, "Since I am now the CEO, I would like to impose new rules for our *only* female group in this company."

"New rules?"

"Ever since the prostitution mediation, tax evasion and cover-up

of a drug scandal, our stocks have been plummeting along with ex CEO Yang's resignation," She sighed, "Our artists' safety has been on the line as well."

Lisa's jaw dropped, "What? What happened?"

CEO Hwang waved her hand, "It's not important," *Not important?!* "The point here is, we cannot risk our girl group as well, which is why I fixed some things in your contract."

Her eyes turned to her manager, who had the same look of confusion in his face.

"For BLACKPINK, security would be increased. Body guards would follow you everywhere you go. There would at least be four body guards in your dorm, one for each of you. You are not allowed to go anywhere without them." Lisa gulped, "Next, no clubbing, drinking, and driving, as usual."

"Okay, ma'am."

"Lastly, your dating ban would be extended for two more years," CEO Hwang gave her a look that she couldn't recognize, "After that Jennie and Kai scandal, they've sent your member death threats and we can't risk another member having one as well. The company's image was trashed because of it." She shook her head, "As for now, I would like to keep you all monitored 24/7 and like I mentioned before, with body guards at all times."

Lisa couldn't comprehend what was happening. That look she gave her... it sent chills down her spine. "What do you mean, ma'am?"

"In simpler terms, you girls shouldn't involve yourself in relationships first, especially in *secret* ones." She felt her heart drop, "You knew what happened to Jennie." Of course Lisa knew, Jennie said they threatened her. "Not that I'm saying you're involved in any, but you aren't, right?"

She shook her head, "No, ma'am, of course not."

"Good. You *better* not."

Her sudden change of tone surprised her. It sounded like she was accusing her, "Excuse me?"

"I've always *loved* YG Ent., ever since I came to work here 15 years ago." Lisa couldn't understand anything, "I love it with my *entire* heart, every *fiber* in my being." The woman smiled to herself, "I would do *anything* and *everything* just to keep it safe from harm - especially from its own artists."

"What are you talking about, ma'am?" Manager Jung asked from her side. He, too, was skeptical.

Did she know?

"What I'm saying is that whoever taints the name of YG Entertainment, they would face the *consequences*." Her eyes turned

to Lisa, yet again. "No matter who you are, no matter where you came from, *I'll bring you down.*"

The entire office was silent.

The CEO put her hands together and said, "That's all for tonight, thank you so much for coming."

Lalisa and Manager Jung both stood up, bowed, and left the room.

As soon as they were out, she turned to her manager and asked him sharply, "What the hell was she talking about?"

Manager Jung shrugged, "I don't even know. I guess she's really overprotective over the company, huh?"

"I guess, she looked like she was willing to sacrifice her life for it." She snorted, "The way she told me about that dating thing creeped me out. It's not like I was doing anything wrong."

"Well, maybe you don't know it yet." He replied as the elevator doors opened. There was no one inside, luckily.

"Don't know what?"

"Don't know what you're doing wrong." He pressed the ground floor button and continued, "You know what, I've heard from other employees that CEO Hwang is not to be messed with."

"Huh? Why?"

"They didn't tell me, but she's scary. I don't know why but she's said to be worse than CEO Yang himself." Bo Kyung fished something out from his pocket and handed it to her, "Anyway, here's your phone."

Lalisa clutched it and immediately turned it on. There, on the lock screen, she'd received 22 messages and six missed calls from Jeongguk - which was *not* a good thing. It was past 8 o'clock now, and she still had to go back to her dorm to get changed.

8:34 pm

LALISA

guk?

I'm sorry I
didn't text you
my manager
took my phone
i'll go there
in a bit, just
need to get
changed.
i'm really,
really sorry

As the doors of the elevator opened, she dashed outside to the awaiting car and went on her way home.



Jeongguk slowly rose up from the chair as the clock from the living room read 8:00 pm.

His stomach started growling but he didn't bother eating because he wanted to wait for her. Still, Lisa wasn't here.

He was starting to feel hopeless. He felt like she wasn't coming, but he had no idea why. She should've texted him, not stood him up. Now, his ego and his pride were bruised and he felt like he couldn't face his hyungs because of the embarrassment. They prepared everything for the both of them but she didn't show up.

He almost started to pity himself for looking like an idiot, but *meh*, he decided against it. *Maybe she fell asleep.*

He grabbed the vacuum cleaner from the storage room and pursed his lips before he vacuumed the rose petals from the kitchen until the entrance of the apartment.

The candles from the table were returned back into the cupboard and the chicken wings was placed in the refrigerator along with the two bibimbap. He decided he didn't have the appetite to eat after all that.

Exhausted, hopeless, and embarrassed, Jeongguk went into his room and slowly drifted to sleep.



15 minutes was all it took her to get changed and hail a cab from Bamseom to Hannam. Jennie had asked her multiple questions about the meeting with the CEO as she arrived home but she wasn't able to answer them all. Jeongguk was her priority as of the moment and nothing else.

As she went out of the taxi, Lalisa rushed inside and took the elevator without looking back. Her watch said that it was 9:30 pm, making her heart beat faster. *Hurry, Lisa, hurry.*

She made him wait for more than *three* hours and she felt bad about it. *I just hope he isn't mad at me. I should've tried harder to get my phone back and inform him.*

The elevator doors opened and she almost ran to the door of his apartment. Lisa almost wept as she reached the entrance and grabbed the spare key Jeongguk gave her from her back pocket.

She struggled with opening the door as her hands were shaking, but she managed.

Her expectations of him sitting there and waiting for her crumbled when she saw that the entire place was dark and it was silent in the living room.

Blinded by the darkness, her hands crept up to the walls and found the light switch, immediately turning it on.

No sign of the guy or his members.

Lisa walked to Jeongguk's room as the kitchen was empty and knocked thrice, "Guk? It's me, Lisa. I'm here now."

Seconds passed, no reply.

Still, she carefully opened the door to his room and slipped her head in. *There he was.* The sight of him sleeping peacefully made her knees weak.

"Guk," She spoke softly as she sat on his bed and removed his hair from his face, "Guk, wake up." She lightly shook his body, "Get your lazy ass up."

Hearing her, Jeongguk groaned and slapped her hand away.

"Excuse me?"

"Go away, Lis." He muttered, eyes still closed as he rolled to the other side, "You stood me up. You never even texted."

Lisa blinked, "I'm..."

"Save it." He hugged the blanket tighter, "Go home now, I'm sleeping."

"No, Guk, listen," She pulled his body back to face him, "I was supposed to come here as soon as I arrived but the new CEO's secretary picked me up at the airport."

This caught his attention, "And what? You two had dinner instead and forgot about me?"

She slapped his arm, "No. It was a *she*. She told me the CEO wanted to meet me as soon as I returned." She sighed, "Trust me, I tried so hard to inform you but they took my phone away."

Jeongguk frowned, "Why?"

"I don't know, but I'm sorry, I really am." She held his arm as she said, "Let's eat dinner now, Guk, I know you've cooked up something special for me."

He sat up and looked at her, "I forgive you... I just..." He pushed his hair back, stressed, "I thought you weren't coming."

Lisa smiled at him, "I'd never tell that to the people who are important to me."

Jeongguk tilted his head, "What did you say?"

She almost face palmed, "Nothing, let's go." She turned around to go to the kitchen when he pulled her back to the bed, making her land on top of him.

"You owe me a kiss for being late, darling," He murmured, staring up at her. The position and the way he spoke gave her involuntary shivers, to which he noticed, "Are you turned on right now?"

Thankfully, she was able to wake up from his words, "No. I'm hungry, let's go." She removed herself from him and headed to the kitchen, his laughter following from behind.

"You still have to have your punishment for making me wait like this!"

Well, fuck.

■

Secretary Gong moved from her position in the corner as Manager Jung and Lisa left, "Ma'am, I think you were being too obvious."

CEO Hwang laughed, "That was my intention, Miss Gong, so that Miss Manoban knew that I wasn't just going to let this slide."

"What do you intend to do now, ma'am?"

"Assign another body guard for Miss Manoban. Have him follow her around whenever she goes - *secretly*. I'm sure that tracking device you've installed in her phone would be of good use." The CEO leaned back, "Until then, I need to have proof if what I speculate is true."

"And if it is true?" Secretary Gong pressed on even further. "A lot of fans have predicted that it was her with Jeon Jeongguk the other day. We can't just ignore them. Our stocks have been decreasing because of her connection to the boy and the hate online has increased rapidly - especially to our company."

"Let's just say that if its true, Miss Manoban wouldn't like the consequences," She clicked her tongue, "We let Miss Kim slide before, but we won't do it again this time."

"Wow, the new CEO is really something, huh?" Chaeyoung remarked before she shoved a handful of Lucky Charms into her mouth, "She's too overprotective, but then again, I understand her point." She said, almost incomprehensible.

Lalisa tilted her head, "How can you say so?" She'd just arrived home from eating dinner at Jeongguk's place and it was safe to say that everything went well. They ate the food that he made (Lisa loved the vegetarian Pad Thai) and shared a kiss or two - much to her delight. "I mean, she indirectly threatened me."

"Mino and I met the other day," Jennie said from beside her, "He said some sasaengs found their apartment - which, I remind you, is *five floors above us* - and left death threats at their door."

"What?! Why did they do that?" Lisa asked, eyes wide. That was just too much. If the sasaengs knew their apartment as well, they'd be done for.

"Because of the scandals, Lis. Specifically, the Seungri one. I don't want to go into details but that was just..." Jennie shook her head, "Anyway, it's best for us to be monitored at all times. For our safety."

Jisoo took a sip of her milk before saying, "Manager Jung told me that some investors started pulling out funds, which is why our company is slowly going bankrupt."

"That is just unbelievable. What will happen to us now?"

Lalisa shrugged, "More security. More rules."

"I think it was the right decision to extend the dating ban, too - no offense, Lali." Jennie held out a hand, "I mean, fans online have been saying that it was you with Guk the other day. The hate on our SNS and YG's have increased twice."

"I don't really check SNS anymore. What'd they say?"

"That you're just using him for clout because our company's going down." Her member replied with a sigh, "I told you this before, Lis. You'll get hated on just because of a single situation."

"I know, unnie. Maybe I was just overthinking, anyway. Maybe the CEO didn't really threaten me like I thought she did." She scratched her head, "The CEO really loves the company, huh?"

Chaeyoung nodded, "Yeah. I can see that. She's willing to do anything just for it."

"But YG Entertainment's name is already trashed. I don't know what she can do about it." Jisoo pursed her lips, and leaned her head on Jennie's shoulder, "I'm really sleepy."

Jennie snorted, "Weak shit."

"You did not just call me a-"

"But I did."

Lalisa and Chaeyoung only shared a laugh as their unnies started bickering back and forth.

▪□

JUNE 27, 2019

Lalisa woke up to the sound of her phone ringing.

As she opened her eyes, she expected to see rays of sunlight creeping into her room but was greeted by the darkness instead. She absentmindedly reached for her phone from her bedside drawer and answered the call without looking at the called ID.

"Hello?" She asked, eyes heavy because of sleep.

"Darling," The voice said, making her sigh, "Wake up."

"Jeon, if you want to drag me out and come with you to the convenience store, I can't. I'm still sleeping." She replied, hugging her pillow tighter.

Jeongguk chuckled, "No, stupid. I'm not dragging you to the convenience store."

"Then why did you call?"

"Let's go on a road trip."

This made her eyes snap open, "A road- *what*? Guk, it's literally-"
She stopped to check the time, "-four in the morning. What has gotten into you?"

"I don't know, but come on. This is a once in a lifetime opportunity. Please." He pleaded, "Besides, I'm already outside your apartment."

She gasped, "What?! You must be joking."

"But I am. Now get your ass down here."

"Guk," She whined, "I can't. The CEO increased our security and we would have individual body guards now. I'd be dead if they realize that I'm not in the apartment."

He snorted, "I know that. Your unnies would cover up for you. I already talked to them during the dinner the other day."

This guy, Lalisa thought, "Okay, fine." She sighed, "What should I bring?"

Jeongguk laughed on the other line, "Three casual clothing, one pair of pajamas, your essentials, and a camera."

"Pajamas? Where are we going, really?"

"That's for me to know and for you to find out," He replied, "Now get ready. I'm already hungry."

■

Lalisa watched as Jeongguk finished a bottle of water.

She'd found him a while ago inside a Ford truck that was parked outside her apartment complex. If it wasn't for the slightly open window and a whiff of his perfume, she wouldn't have known it was his.

"So, where are we really going?" She asked for the nth time as she took a sip of her coffee, "Tell me the truth this time, Guk, or I'm gonna jump out the car."

Jeongguk chuckled and replied, "Okay, in all honesty, I don't even know."

"What?! Then where are you heading to?" She looked around at their surroundings, but they seemed to be still in Seoul.

"Wherever this truck will take us." was his simple reply, "Long drives are a thing right now, you know."

She groaned, "You better know where you're going, Jeon."

"Of course, darling. It's Jeon Jeongguk you're talking to." He checked his watch and asked, "Lali, do you wanna eat breakfast at the beach?"

"Breakfast?" She repeated, "At the beach? That actually sounds cool. Let's have McDonald's."

"What are you, five?" He received a slap on the arm for that.

They drove to the nearest McDonald's, Jeongguk ordering a sausage McMuffin and her a bacon egg and cheese McMuffin, along with a 20-piece chicken nugget (the both of them were on a diet but meh). Immediately, they drove to Eurwangni Beach in Incheon, the drive just 40 minutes from Seoul.

"Be careful with your disguise, Guk." She reminded him as they got out of the car, "We don't want to hide in another dumpster, do we?"

"Yes, ma'am." He replied as he locked the doors and followed her to the shore.

Though it was relatively dark as it was past five am, there were already several people in the beach. The both of them tried to steer clear from them as much possible and found a spot near the waters.

"These sweatpants are absolutely not sand-friendly," She uttered as she sat down a few feet away from the sea.

He cackled, "You should've worn a bikini, then. That would've been better."

"You and your mind," She took her McMuffin out of the bag and took a whiff, "Wow, smell that?"

"Smell what?"

"A ruined diet, that's what." She took an enormous bite and moaned because of the taste, "Last time I ate a McMuffin was eons ago."

"Can't relate," He grabbed a nugget and ate it in one go, "Jimin and I used to sneak out and eat these and then work out for two hours after. Works everytime."

"That's unfair," Lalisa scooted a little closer to him and leaned her head on his shoulder, "Is this okay with you?"

"Honestly, I wouldn't mind a steamy make-out section in the waters right now."

She retracted her head in disgust, "Let's just watch the sunrise in peace, shall we?" *But a make-out session wouldn't be bad...* She thought.

Jeongguk shrugged and took out his Bluetooth speaker, "Not without some tunes." *Love wave* by Lovewave started playing, making her close her eyes automatically because of the sound, "Her voice is calming, huh?"

She nodded, leaning back on him once more, "I feel sleepy now." In a blink, he moved away from her, causing her to fall on the ground, "Hey!"

"What? You said you were sleepy," He said nonchalantly, "Wait, wait," He told her, grabbing his camera from his bag, "Stay in that position."

Lalisa rose slowly from the ground, finger combing her hair to remove the sand, "Huh? Why?"

"I'm gonna take a picture of you." She did as she was told and didn't move, "Three, two, one..." She heard a small click and went closer to him again.

"Let me see- *woah*. That's a good shot." The photo was wonderful and better than what she expected - it was her silhouette in front of the various colours of the sky. Jeongguk smiled at his camera before turning it off and facing her again.

"Come here, darling." He said as he opened his arms. She settled inside them, leaning her head on his chest, "Give me a nugget."

"That's so romantic." She rolled her eyes and grabbed two, putting one in his mouth and the other one into hers. Jeongguk suddenly went forward and kissed her nose, making her squeal.

Her eyes caught sight of the horizon and she tapped his arm so he could see it, too. He turned his gaze towards it, seeing a mixture of yellow and orange beneath the dark blue of the night.

"That's beautiful." Lisa's breath caught as the sky *slowly* transitioned into cotton candy pink, the sun peeking through the horizon. She watched in awe as it slowly ascended, the sky becoming a deep neon blue as the light washed over them.

"Yeah," Jeongguk replied, breathless. His eyes, however, was not fixed on the view before them. Instead, it was fixed on the woman in his arms. She looked *ethereal* - a soft smile etched on her face as her eyes were locked on the rising sun.

The wind gently blew her hair, making him reach out his hand and place a strand beneath her ear, "Hmm?" She turned to him, still smiling. *Wow*.

"Nothing." He muttered, eyes still glued on her. He could faintly hear the music in the background as she stared back at him.

"Is there something in my face?" She frowned, "Can you get it?"

Clearing his throat, he turned away and grabbed his McMuffin, "No, there isn't any."

Lalisa huffed, "Wow, way to ruin the moment, Junglebook." He turned back to her, face confused, "I was waiting for you to kiss me."

His brows rose up in surprise, "What? Why?"

"Don't you watch movies? In times like this, the male would take the female into his arms and kiss her as the sun rises." She grumbled on and about, "Ugh, you just had to!"

In a heartbeat, he was able to bring his face closer to hers and kissed her (just a smack, nothing else). He pulled away almost immediately with a satisfied smile on his face.

"Happy?" He asked, looking down at her tomato red face.

"Yeah."

"Race you to the water?" Jeongguk's eyes lit up as he grinned at her, "Loser gets to drive the entire day."

"What?" She asked incredulously, watching as he removed his shoes, "I don't want to- hey that's not fair! I don't even know how to drive!"

"Not my problem!"

She watched in annoyance as he ran towards the water and struggled with removing her own shoes.

"Jeon fucking Jeongguk!" Lalisa screamed as she followed, "Come back here, you dumbass!"

■

"Talkin' under pink skies, I think our hearts are starting to show..."
Jeongguk sang as he sped through the streets of Ansan.

He and Lisa had left the beach around 6:30 AM after messing around in the water. The both of them got wet all over that they had to stop by at a public bathroom and change into their dry clothes (much to the latter's irritation).

His eyes turned to the girl beside him, smiling softly at her sleeping state. *She even looks gorgeous with her eyes closed.* He thought.

Slowing the car, he parked it at the side of the road and grabbed a blanket from the backseat. He carefully placed it on Lisa, covering her entire body so she won't get cold.

"Sleep well, darling," He murmured, kissing her forehead and settling back into his seat.

"Shut up, I love you, you're my bestfriend..."

■

"I miss my cats," Lalisa pouted as she looked out of the window. It was past 7 now, she'd just woken up from a good sleep a few minutes ago, "I miss my children."

Jeongguk nodded his head as Joji's *NO FUN* played in the background - not hearing her words, "Yeah, I drive around on my own, I'm rich but my AC broke..."

"Hey, Junglebook, you listening?" She turned the volume down.

"Mmm, yeah?" He turned his head slightly to her, eyes not leaving the road, "Didn't hear you."

"Never mind." She scoffed.

"Hey, I forgot to ask you last night," He started, "But what did the CEO discuss with you that you were late to dinner?"

"Oh, that," She hugged the blanket tighter, "Nothing much... just about the change in our contracts and YG's falling stocks and stuff."

"What did she say about your contract?"

"Extended dating ban... more security... a personal bodyguard."

"Woah..." He mused, "Are you sure there's no bodyguard following us right now?"

Lisa stopped, "What?"

"You said you had a personal bodyguard, right? Where is he then?" He asked again.

"I don't know..."

He snorted, "Just kidding. I was just messing with you."

She let out a breath, "What the fuck, Guk. I thought someone followed us for real."

"No, no, I made sure no one did," He assured, "So, I guess that means less dates?"

"We only have barely a month left so we don't need to worry about dates - I think." Jeongguk let out a long breath, catching her attention, "What?"

"You know, whenever I think about the remaining month, I get sad - don't know why." He admitted.

Lalisa crossed her arms, "Don't tell me you've fallen for me already, Jeon? That's why you're feeling that way?"

"What? Psssst." He tried to laugh but it came out as a nervous chuckle, "Do you want to get ice cream?"

She guffawed, "Yep, keep changing the topic, Guk - and yes. I'd

love some ice cream."

Lowkey by Niki suddenly started playing, brightening Lisa's face, "I love this song!"

Jeongguk scrunched his nose, "You do? Wow, I didn't even know you had taste."

"Me? No taste? Gosh, Guk," She stared at him with disgust, "You are literally missing out. *Put your phone on vibrate, let's catch a vibe, babe!*" She sang on top of her lungs.

"Ah, that's too noisy." He made a show of covering his ear with one hand. *She's cute*, he thought anyways.

This encouraged her to sing even louder, "*Be as quiet as you can, 'cause if anyone sees, they'll just blow shit up.*"

"Is this our theme song or what?"

"*I'll just let ya know bedroom's vacant-*"

"Well, better damn right it is."

"*No one's gotta know, just us and the moon 'til the sun starts wakin'*," Lisa started using her phone as a microphone and closed her eyes tightly while she sang.

"*Up's the only direction I see,*" He finally sang, "*As long as we keep this.*"

The both of them exchanged a knowing look before singing, "*Low, low, low, low, low, low, low, low-key...*"

"*You ain't even gotta lo- lo- lo- lo- lo- lo- lo-love me,*" She did a bunch of finger hearts that made him cringe.

"*Us in a king-size, keep it a secret,*" He continued while looking at the rear view mirror.

"*Say I'm your queen, I don't wanna leave this,*" She followed, putting a hand to her heart.

"*Low, low, low, low, low, low, low, low-key.*" They both finished the chorus.

Lisa flipped her hair sassily, "Clearly, I did better than you."

"Yeah," He agreed, "You sound great."

"I know, right?" She smiled proudly and sat up straighter, making him chuckle.

"Yes, yes. Now let's go buy ice cream and take a little stroll on the park."

■

By the time the finished wandering around a nearby park at Suwon, it was already almost 11 am.

They did a little photo shoot session at the park and jogged around (it was Jeongguk's idea and she protested, but it did nothing to stop him). She found that it was difficult to argue with him when it came to fitness related things.

Now, they were out of the park and were walking down the

streets to find a restaurant to have lunch in. Lisa wanted fried chicken, so Jeongguk was doing his best to search for any.

They ended up on Chicken Maru, located at the Suwon Chicken Street just a few blocks away from the park and their truck.

"I guess it's *eat anything you want* day today, huh?" Jeongguk commented as they waited for their order.

Lalisa sighed contentedly, "Yes. I actually feel like I'm in heaven right now."

"It's a good thing I took you out, then."

"Do your members know that you're here?" She asked, eyes focused on the waiter coming to the table with their food, "Thank you."

"Of course they do," He answered, "We don't have any schedules today, anyway, so it's all good."

"What did they say about me? During that dinner."

He took a cheese flavoured drumstick, "They said I was a lucky bastard."

"Good thing you're aware of that."

■□

The rest of the afternoon went pretty well. Lalisa didn't want to leave the car so they opted for a movie marathon in the backseat using Jeongguk's iPad and watched the *Fifty Shades of Grey* series (it was both their idea).

It was uncomfortable at first, because the both of them were partly teenagers with raging hormones enclosed in a small space with a movie filled with numerous sex scenes. Lisa would be lying if she said she didn't feel the sexual tension between them, but she didn't comment on it.

The movies were good, anyway.

They were now at an isolated spot beside the road where they watched the sunset minutes ago from the cargo bed of the truck. Jeongguk had placed the comforters and pillows inside the car on it, making a makeshift bed.

When she'd asked him where he learned it, he only replied, "Pinterest, duh?

While Jeongguk was busy taking pictures of the darkening sky, Lalisa munched happily on her dumplings and her box of Chow Mein. He bought Chinese takeaway a while back with four bottles of soju for the both of them, as well as packets of chips.

"Don't I get any, darling?" He asked, referring to the food she was eating as he viewed the photos on his camera.

She took this as a cue to put a dumpling inside his mouth while rolling her eyes, "Don't you have hands or something?"

"I do but it's a hundred times better when you do it," He chewed

on the food and took his own dinner from the bag. "I ordered spring rolls and wonton, by the way. Check inside."

"What else did you get?" She asked, eagerly opening the bag, "Tofu?"

"Yep."

The both of them had a peaceful dinner - with Jeongguk occasionally taking pictures of her while she was chewing on a spring roll because apparently, she looked like a bunny.

It was 7pm when Lalisa decided she wanted to drink.

"Isn't it too early?" Jeongguk asked, opening a bottle of soju and handing it to her.

"Is there a schedule for drinking?" She replied, taking a sip but immediately regretting it afterwards, "Crap, drinking it straight from the bottle is *way* different than drinking it from a shot glass."

"If you don't like it, I'll drink that if you want." He took a sip from his own.

"Jeon, I only took one sip. Where's the fun in that?" Lisa rolled her eyes, "Besides, it's not like I'm a lightweight or something."

That statement was proved to be false, however, when 10 minutes later, Lisa turned to him, her face beet-red and eyes droopy, "I'm drunk."

Jeongguk snickered, "What, really? You said you weren't a lightweight."

"Shut up," She sighed, taking another sip, "The good thing is, I give really good advice when I'm drunk."

"Are you serious?" This gave him an idea - a risky one at that.

The girl nodded, "Do I look like I'm joking? Go," She waved her hand, "Tell me all your worries, Junglebook."

He bit the inside of his cheek before saying, "Hmm... you know, there's this girl..." His heartbeat raced as he started his statement.

"Yeah, and?" She urged on, reaching for another bottle.

"And... well, there's really not much to say about her except that I like her."

Her hand froze, "What?"

"I like her."

She licked her lips before replying, "You do? Um... then... what do you want me to do about it?"

He crossed his arms, "I like her, yes, but she doesn't know," His eyes turned to her as he asked, "How do I tell her?"

Lisa straightened up, "I don't... uh- well, first, what are the things you want to say to her besides *I like you*?"

Jeongguk pursed his lips, "I want to tell her that..." He drew a long breath, "I don't know, I haven't had the slightest idea."

"Don't be an *idiot*, Junglebook," She turned to him, grabbing a

pillow to hug, "Pretend I'm her. Pretend you're talking to her instead of me."

He chuckled, "Alright, alright, I'll try."

She gestured for him to go on.

"I wish..." He looked her in the eyes, "I wish everything between us is real."

Somehow, what he said made her stomach churn. *Am I going to puke?*

"I wish that we had more time with each other and that... *I don't want this to end.*"

He didn't speak any more after that.

"What? Is that it? She asked, frowning. He nodded, "That's all you want to say?"

"For now, yes. I don't even know if she likes me back," He downed the remaining soju.

Lalisa snorted, "That was lame." She tilted her head, "Oddly enough, I feel like you were referring to me."

Jeongguk threw his head back and laugh, "You're smart, huh."

"It's Lalisa Manoban you're talking to," She smirked, "But really, who's the girl? Is she prettier than me?"

"You already know who she is."

"Do I look like a psychic to you? Tell me."

"Do you promise not to bash my head if I tell you who she is?"

"I promise," They both did a pinky swear, "Now, who is it?" She took a sip of her soju.

"It's you."

She spit it out in a heartbeat. *What the hell? Am I sobering up?* "What?"

"I said, I like you."

Lisa scoffed, "Stop joking, Jeon. It's not funny." Her heart raced as she looked at him, "So?"

He rolled his eyes, "Darling, its you." He added, "I'm not an idiot that would like another girl while we're together. That would be a dick move."

"So..." Everything wasn't processing in her mind, "So... you mean, the *kisses... everything...* it was real?"

"At first it wasn't," He said, "But then as we went on... I started developing feelings for you."

"But you said-"

"I know what I said and I take it back," Jeongguk sighed and met her gaze, "I like you, Lisa, *more than I should.*"

"God, I'm sober again," She muttered, blinking her eyes, "But... yeah, I like you too, Guk."

This time, it was his turn to look shocked, "You- what?"

"I said, I like you too," She repeated his words, "The feeling is mutual."

His face broke out into a smile, "Thank God."

Lisa didn't know if it was because of the way how their faces were inching towards each or the alcohol running in her veins, but she grabbed his collar and pulled him into a kiss.

It started out slow, like how their kisses usually go. He held her face in one hand and the other on her waist. He kissed her - gently and tenderly. She put her arms around him, opening her mouth making him slip his tongue in and caress her own.

It wasn't until something burned in Lisa's stomach that her hand suddenly went to his hair, pulling him even closer. She deepened the kiss, rising to her knees to straddle him. Next thing she knew, everything went from slow to heated.

Jeongguk's hands travelled down to her hips, his mouth detaching from hers and started leaving open-mouthed kisses along her jaw all the way to her neck.

"*Darling*," He murmured on her neck, sending shivers down her spine, "I think we should go somewhere private."

"Yeah," She replied, breathless, "This isn't really an appropriate place, you know."

He chuckled and pulled away from her, "Eager, are we?" He squeezed her thigh, and she took this as a cue to remove herself from him.

The both of them then headed to a nearby motel, just five minutes away from their previous spot. Lisa felt like time was particularly slow now because of the growing heat in her core, but she didn't utter a word to Jeongguk from the moment they entered the lobby all the way to their room.

As soon as they entered the room, she placed her bags on the floor and plopped down the bed. He followed suit, lying next to her.

"What now?" She asked, her heart beating furiously in her chest. She doesn't have the slightest idea of what she wanted to happen - hell, she doesn't even know what she wanted.

He turned his head towards her, smiling softly, "As much as I want to do *that*," He enunciated the last word, "I feel like it's not the time - not yet."

Her brows scrunched together, "Why so?" A while ago, he was just kissing her senselessly but now...

"*Darling*," He pulled her towards him, "I like you, okay? But, I want to prove how much I'm willing to be with you before doing *that*." He placed a strand of her hair beneath her ear, "I don't want you to think that sex is the only thing that I want from you."

Wow. His words almost made her heart melt, "Guk," She murmured, cupping his cheek, "Thank you."

He smiled lovingly at her, "No, Lali, *thank you.*" Jeongguk kissed her temple and pulled away, grabbing his iPad from his bag.

"So," She sat up straight, "The feelings are mutual, huh."

He sat down on the bed beside her, "Mutual, indeed."

It was silent for a moment before she asked, "We'll make this work, won't we?"

"Of course we will." He assured her, kissing her shoulder. "I'll make sure we will."

"If not, then we'll bring my bodyguard with us on dates as well."

"Haha, very funny." He then tapped on the movie *Gonjiam*, "The first one who screams should wake up first tomorrow."

"I'm guessing that won't be me then."

Jeongguk smirked, "Try me.

■

JUNE 28, 2019

Lalisa groaned as her phone rang continuously from the floor.

She and Jeongguk slept past midnight last night, both exhausted from their movie marathon. They ate their leftovers from their dinner and watched various horror movies in the wee hours of the morning.

Grunting, she removed herself from her boyfriend's arms, slowly rising from the bed to get her phone.

As soon as she opened it, a bunch of notifications greeted her on the lockscreen. *6:43 am.*

8 MESSAGES FROM CHAENGIE

3 MESSAGES FROM JENJEN

5 MESSAGES FROM CHICHU

2 MESSAGES FROM MANAGER JUNG

4 MISSED CALLS FROM JENJEN

She frowned as she read the texts. They contained of *where are you?* and *come home* and *be careful. Is something wrong?* She thought.

Her question was soon answered as she read Manager Jung's texts.

6:12 am

MANAGER JUNG

Good morning, Lalisa.

This is Manager Jung.

The CEO has summoned you to the office. 8 am sharp, don't be late.

Fuck.

a/n: you guys i'm sorry for the late update. my new puppy arrived the other day so i've been busy taking care of him and helping him settle.

btw, how was this chapter? this took me three days to make lol no joke.

anw, just a little survey, if i would make a jirose fanfic inspired by the k drama *what's wrong with secretary kim*, would you read it? hehe.

all the love, caly.

35

Lalisa fidgeted in her seat as Jeongguk sped the car on the highways of Seoul.

Minutes after she'd read the text, she immediately woke him to get ready to go back to Seoul. He obliged, doing as best as he can to tidy up and move quickly. Their road trip was cut short as panic surged through her just because of one simple text.

"Why do you think they're summoning me?" She asked, bouncing her knees in anxiousness. As far as she knew, she had no schedules for the week and it was a mystery as to why she was summoned. For a CF, maybe? An urgent photoshoot?

Jeongguk shook his head from beside her, "I don't know, but I don't have a good feeling about this." She felt the same way.

Looking at him, she grabbed one of his hand and held it, "Guk, no matter what happens, we'll get through this, yeah?"

His mouth twitched, "Of course, darling. I know we will."

I hope we do.

■

Lisa gulped nervously as the CEO entered the office. The entire atmosphere just screamed *bad news* to her but she ignored it, thinking it was just her brain imagining things. In all honesty, she preferred their first meeting.

"Good morning, ma'am." She greeted, standing up beside Manager Jung. Unlike her, he seemed to know what she was here for and based on his expressionless face, it wasn't pretty.

"Morning, Miss Manoban." CEO Hwang replied, nodding to Manager Jung as a sign of acknowledgement. Secretary Gong, like always, stood at the corner with a small smile on her face.

Lisa sat down on the chair, hands together as she asked, "What's with the urgent summon, ma'am?"

As the CEO's eyes landed on her again, she felt chills rush down her spine. "First of all, Miss Manoban, I would like to apologise for this inconvenience. But I assure you, what we're going to talk about today is major and will have a huge impact in your career."

She was about to question what she meant when CEO Hwang placed two pictures at the table in front of her.

Lisa's blood chilled.

"Care to explain why you were in these photos?"

I am fucked.

■

Jeongguk panted as he ran from the elevator to the rooftop of Bamseom apartments. Lisa had texted him an hour ago to meet her here but she didn't give any clear explanation after relaying the message.

As soon as he opened the door to the rooftop, he saw her.

Lisa had her back facing him, arms crossed as she stared towards the view of Seoul and the Han River from above.

Walking towards his girlfriend - his *real* girlfriend now, he smiled to himself and wrapped his arms around her, making her look up at him and smile back, but it didn't reach her eyes.

"Hey, darling," Jeongguk kissed her temple, "What are you doing up here? What's wrong?"

"Just thinking," She replied, shaking her head. After a moment of peace and silence, she took a deep breath, "Guk, I have to tell you something."

The way she spoke startled him. "What is it about?" When she didn't reply, he asked again, "Is it about the CEO?"

Slowly, she pried herself off him while taking a shuddering breath, "She..." Lisa rubbed her face and muttered, "God, I can't say it."

"Lisa, what's wrong?"

She ignored him and bit the inside of her cheek, her gaze transfixed on the scene below her. What she felt inside were a hurricane of emotions - she just couldn't say it, she doesn't know how to.

"Lali, please." He pleaded, putting a hand on her shoulder, "What is it? What can't you say? Tell me."

"I..." She turned to him, her eyes now glazed with tears. Just the sight of her made his heart quench. "I can't..."

"Darling," He knew where this was going, but he didn't want to believe it. *No.* "Please."

"Guk," Lisa didn't meet his gaze, her eyes focused on her hands instead, "Guk... *she found out.*" She whispered, voice breaking.

His entire body froze, "Found out about what?" He knew what the answer was, but he just wanted to make sure he was hearing things right.

"She found out about *the truth.*" Her breath hitched, "About us."

"How?" *This must be a dream.* He thought, panicked.

"Care to explain why you were in these photos?"

The pictures that she'd put on the table were her and Jeongguk, one from the time where she kissed him in the airport at Newark and one from their lunch yesterday when they ate in Chicken Maru. The sight

made her frozen.

Lisa didn't know what to say. She debated on whether denying it or facing the truth...

It was silent for a moment before she bit out, "He is just a friend, ma'am." The CEO raised one of her brow, waiting for more explanation, "That one, in Newark, he went there for his own personal reasons and I just dropped him off the airport because he asked me to."

"But why did you kiss him?"

"The kiss meant nothing, ma'am." She tried to hide the shake in her voice by clearing her throat, "And this one, we had lunch yesterday."

The CEO gave her a small smile, calming her nerves for a while, until her gaze turned murderous, "Don't lie to me, Lalisa."

Her sudden change of tone made her entire body tense, "I know what you've been doing. I know where you've been going. Don't you dare lie to my face as if I'm a child because I know a liar when I see one," She squinted her eyes as she said, "And you are a liar, Miss Manoban."

Her hands were cold as she tried to reason out, "Ma'am, I am not-

"Although," The CEO's voice became gentler now, "I understand why idols do it - why they ignore the rules and do what they're not supposed to do.

"Idol life gets lonely sometimes, am I right?" She chuckled, "I suppose you all try to find comfort in one person, idol or no. And that's alright, because when you find this person, you see life in a different perspective. You change the way you look at things. Love can either make you better," She clicked her tongue, "Or ignorant."

"Ma'am, what are you implying?" Lalisa asked as her brows scrunched together. Her? Ignorant? Manager Jung and Secretary Gong were silent as the both of them engaged in a conversation.

"I'm implying that you're ignorant, Lalisa." The woman replied, direct to the point, "Don't you see? YG's stocks are falling, we're going bankrupt, the artists' life are being threatened yet here you are. Going on road trips with your boyfriend when you're supposed to be at home doing nothing.

The look on her face must've been obvious because a second later, the CEO spoke again, "Oh, you must be wondering how I knew about that." She leaned back on her chair, "I placed a tracking device on your phone."

So that's why they took it. She couldn't stop herself as she turned to the man beside her, "Manager Jung, you're in this, too?"

"Lisa," He tried to tell her, "I didn't know at first but now-

She felt betrayed. Her own manager, siding with the CEO that he didn't even know, "Save it." Lisa turned to the CEO again, "What do you want to happen, ma'am? Are you going to threaten me like what you did with Jennie?"

The CEO scoffed, "Wow, where did that surge of bravery come from?" "Why do you meddle in your artists business, anyway?" Lalisa snapped, not caring about who she was talking to, "I understand, we have dating bans, but don't you realize that the reason why we don't follow it is because it's too much. Love is an unavoidable thing." She thought of Jennie, fuelling her anger even more, "No drinking? Fine. No driving? Okay. No plastic surgery? Cool. But no dating for more than five years? I mean, one or three is fine but more than five? Wow. Who are you to control and refrain us from our own feelings, God?

"I understand that dating could affect our reputation and I'm willing to follow the rules, but is the extension really necessary? It's too much. We're not a rookie group anymore. We're almost a three year old group with thirteen songs and no full album! We already know the ways of the industry and we are more than capable of hiding our relationships. We're in our early twenties, not teenagers. Like everyone else, we're curious about love.

"It's not anyone's fault whenever they fall in love with someone. Love is a constant thing in life and in our line of work, love is one of the major factors that encourage us to work even harder. I don't know if you know this," She crossed her legs, "But being an idol requires your sweat, your blood, your body, your time, your entire focus. It's exhausting, it drains you slowly and slowly until you have nothing left.

"But then, this person comes into your life. This person makes you feel alive again, inspires you to do best in what you love to do. Love doesn't make us ignorant, it makes us better. Now I know the current situation of the company and I would like to give you my sympathy, but is it my fault that the stocks are falling? Is it my fault that we're going bankrupt? Is it my fault that the artists receive death threats?

"As far as I know, I've done nothing except love the man that has been good to me and treats me better than this piece of shit company. I've given all that I can to give YG a good image through our performances and thi-"

"Break up with him."

Lalisa stopped mid-sentence. "What?" was all she could say.

"Break. Up. With. Him." CEO Hwang tilted her head, "You said this was a piece of shit company, right? Well, here's your ticket out."

"I don't want to." She shook her head, "I love him."

"Break up with him, or leave BLACKPINK."

She opened her mouth to answer, but the reality of the situation hit her hard. If she breaks up with him, she's going to lose the man that has seen who she really was. If she doesn't, she's going to lose everything she'd worked hard for. She was going to lose her members.

"I..."

"What, Miss Manoban? Cat got your tongue?" CEO Hwang smirked,

"Aren't you going to deliver another speech? Go on, I'm listening."

"Ma'am..." She tried to chuckle, "You must be joking."

"Do I look like I am?" The woman crossed her arms, "Break up with him or leave the group."

Lisa couldn't think straight as a stack of papers was placed on the table in front of her. **Termination of Contract.**

"Ma'am, I..." She paled, "I can't break up with him."

"Okay. Sign the contract and we'll be done here." The CEO motioned for Secretary Gong and the woman walked to her, handing her the tablet, "Although I can't promise that you'll still have a good image once you leave."

What?

She watched as the woman scrolled through the tablet, "Here we have proof of your rhinoplasty back in 2015... your skin bleaching in 2016... your photos with Jeon Jeongguk, and a lot more interesting stories the public doesn't know about you."

As she enumerated each and every thing that she'd kept as a secret, she couldn't help but shake - in anger or fear, she doesn't know.

"I can't break up with him..." She clenched her teeth, "But I can't leave the group either."

"So, what is it, Miss Manoban? Make up your mind. We don't have all day."

Lisa didn't meet anyone's eyes. Her confidence crumbled. She was at a dead end.

She must choose one, and one only.

I'm sorry.

Jeongguk was speechless as she told him the entire thing. She didn't meet his eyes all throughout, afraid to see his face. However his mind was in a frenzy, trying to let each and every word she'd said sink in.

He placed his hands on the railing, taking deep breaths to control his emotions, "Well..." He gulped, "What's your decision, then?" Please tell me you chose me... please. He thought, but knew it was impossible. Being an idol was her dream, and he was just a distraction. The harsh reality.

Lisa cupped his face with her hands, staring into his eyes, "Guk, I'm sorry." Her trembling voice betrayed her emotions. He doesn't deserve this... he doesn't deserve me, "I'm sorry, I'm sorry, I'm sorry." She whispered, touching her forehead to his and closing her eyes to prevent her tears from falling. "I tried so hard but..." Her face crumpled, "They made me pick."

Does this mean-

"Lali," His voice broke, "Tell me..." He let out a shuddering breath, pulling away to look at her, "Lali, tell me you fought for me... tell

me that you fought for us."

Her heart broke at the sound of his voice... she'd never heard him speak like that before - it sounded *vulnerable*... *painful*... so unlike him. "I did, Guk, I did." She smiled for him, mouth shaking to prevent her sobs as tears rolled down her cheek, "And I'm sorry..."

He let out a half hearted chuckle and wiped his eyes, "Hey, why are you apologizing?" Jeongguk tried his best to smile, even though his cheeks were wet and his voice was raspy, "I understand, darling. I *truly* do."

She shook her head, grabbing his hand, silently weeping, "Guk, I-" She regretted what she was going to say next, "Guk, *let's break up.*"

It felt like the world stopped.

Jeongguk knew this was coming. He expected it... but hearing her say those words, it hurt more than anything. It was more painful than any other injury he'd gotten, it was more painful than the hate being thrown to them 24/7.

Then, their memories started flashing in his mind.

The first time they met... their breakfast date... when he first walked her home... their dance on her birthday... the first time they kissed... yesterday's sunrise...

Just like that... it would all go to nothing in just a matter of minutes.

"I..." His eyes didn't meet hers, "I... I'm sorry for bringing you into this mess. If it wasn't for me, you won't be in this situation-"

Lisa sniffed, "Jeongguk, stop blaming yourself."

"No, no, it's my fault that we even got to this." He wiped his face with the sleeve of his hoodie and cleared his throat, "I've got to go now... I'm sorry for everything."

"What?" His change in demeanor perplexed her, "We need to talk this out, Guk," She watched as he walked back to the entrance of the rooftop, ignoring her words, "Jeongguk-"

And he left. Just like that.

As soon as everything weighed down on her, sobs tore through her body. She let it all out.

She fished her phone out of her pocket and stared at the on-going call with CEO Hwang.

Yes, she'd been listening all this time.

"Are you happy now?" Lisa screamed while crying at the phone, her emotions getting the best of her, "Are you happy that we're done for? That he left me?"

Without waiting for any reply, she threw the phone from the rooftop as her knees buckled and with a thud, she fell on the floor.

Funny how much can happen in a day. Yesterday they were just watching the sunrise on the beach and singing songs in the car, now

they were broken up and done for good.

We'll get through this, she said.

But they weren't able to. Not even a day has passed since their confession to one another, somebody had taken away that opportunity in minutes.

Her hands shakily covered her mouth to stop any sounds from coming out. Her entire body racked after sob after sob after sob, her mind going dizzy by the sudden rush of emotions.

He just left her...

He left her when she needed him the most.

It was all my fault.

I didn't-

Suddenly, a pair of arms encircled her.

Lisa looked up, surprised to see Jeongguk kneeling before her, wrapping his arms around her and nuzzling his face in her neck.

"Guk..." She started, wiping her tears frantically, "I thought... I thought you left."

"I can't do this." Jeongguk shook his head and looked at her, eyes red rimmed from crying, "Is there another way, darling? Is there another way for us to continue what we have?"

He looked so *desperate*, so eager and willing to do anything just for her to say yes. Oh what she would give just to never see him like this again. It hurt her heart when she replied, "I wish there was, Guk, *I wish there was.*"

His head lowered as new tears fell into his cheeks, "Lali..." He turned to her after a moment, with that forced smile of his, "I... I don't want to be the person that... will get in the way of your dreams."

Slowly, his hands reached up and wiped her cheeks one by one with his thumbs, "But... please do know that I'll always be here if you need me."

Lisa couldn't help but burst into tears again, embracing Jeongguk in a bone-crushing hug.

"I hate her, Guk," She sobbed in his shoulder, his hand rubbing circles on her back, "I hate her."

"If you keep on crying," He started, voice raspy, "You'll be like Annabelle soon."

That joke made her chuckle a little bit. He always tried to make her happy... even if he himself is hurting, "Shut up, Junglebook."

He kissed her forehead and replied, "As you wish, darling."

The both of them remained in that position, entangled in a hug, *as if they won't ever do it again.*

a/n: y'all must be hating me now, huh lololol

anw i've been obsessed with social media aus recently tbh it makes me wanna try something new hahaha. some fics that i would recommend are:

OH JEONS! by *SUNREIGNS*

BORDERLINES by *LIZGGUKED*

VIRAL (rosekook) by *deuxmin*

**** EDIT. MAY, 2, 2021 ****

hi its me the author here from the future. i just want to say that ive been reading the replies in this chapter, specifically the part where i recommended a rosékook socmed au and lovelies i am not happy.

we do not book shame in this house!!! we also do not ship shame either. yes, we're liskook shippers, but we have to keep in mind that liskook isn't real. rosékook isn't either, but pls stop hating on the ship??? it's just a ship. don't take it too seriously. cmon now.

also what's up with *ricekook*? is that supposed to be an insult? what's disgusting about rice???? did u know that rice has low amounts of cholesterol and it helps reduce obesity??? rice is my life.

so anyway. stop with the rosékook slander. they're a cute ship. i like reading fics about them. they're cool.

i like liskook better though. but at least u don't see me talking shit about rosékook.

anyway that is all. pls stop bashing on rosékook. they're innocents and they're my babies.

caly x

EPILOGUE.

JULY 16, 2019

Jeongguk lied.

He said he'd be there for her when she needed him... *but he wasn't*.

Whatever Lisa thought that might happen after their little scenario at the rooftop was gone - *shattered*, blown by the wind.

They didn't get back together - to sum it all up. Instead, they drifted apart, both losing communication and in the process, losing what they had (at least, that's what she thinks so).

Although, she should've known that the CEO wouldn't let her go that easily.

CEO Hwang had all their phones monitored from SNS down to texts to phone calls. Lisa had no choice but to delete Jeongguk's number and block it, along with any form of communication that they had, forcing her to cut all ties with him.

To say that she was *fine* was big fat lie - *because she wasn't*. The days after their break up had caused her to lock herself up in her room, the action taking a toll on her physical and mental health.

But, like always, her members were there for her.

Her self-wallowing only lasted for three days before they got impatient.

Jennie almost broke the door of her bedroom simply by just kicking it multiple times until it fell ("*Here I come kick in the door* was your line yet here I am," were Jennie's first words when she saw her). When they dragged her out, she was taken to the kitchen where a variety of food were laid out - all prepared by Jisoo.

Lisa didn't really talk to them after that, just answered with a *yes* or a *no*, but they understood. At night, Chaeyoung would go to her room and sing her to sleep - which, yet again, brought back a certain memory of a certain boy singing to her a long time ago.

From then on, Lisa tried to take her mind off things by shopping. It was Jennie that suggested it and had practically forced her to do so. It became a coping mechanism that her members didn't mind even if she brought home countless bags of clothes, shoes, and jewelry (that she didn't even need).

So here she was again, walking in another mall in Myeongdong with her personal bodyguard in tow. Lisa had to admit - the

bodyguard wasn't bad at all. He was a bit shy and eccentric, but it was fine. She could take it.

She was standing outside her fifth shop now, eyes trained on the clothes inside and contemplating.

"You can stay here," Lisa finally decided, turning to him, "I'll browse through some stuff and maybe buy a few. You can place the bags on the floor if you find them too heavy."

Her bodyguard was indeed struggling as he tried to hold fifteen bags altogether. Lisa felt bad for the guy but she needed to get rid of him for a moment.

He nodded and she took this as a cue to enter the store.

As Lisa entered, she went to the shirts section picked a few that best suited her taste. She was all about oversized shirts now so she got three, then a dress, and tiny earrings that she could wear in her newly pierced ear.

The saleslady led her to one of the fitting rooms on the other side of the store and Lisa thanked her as she said, "I'll be assisting another customer for now, miss. If you need me, I'll just be outside."

Lisa gave her a smile and watched as she left. She turned to one of the fitting rooms when *suddenly*, a hand covered her mouth and dragged her to another stall - all in a matter of seconds.

Fuck, I should've brought the bodyguard.

She struggled from the attacker's hard grip as she saw him closing and locking the door in one breath. Her fist was already clenching and as soon as he let her go, she swung-

But stopped mid-air.

Because the person that was standing in front of her... her *attacker*... was no other than *Jeon Jeongguk* himself.

"*Guk?*" Lisa muttered, eyes darting around his face - not quite believing that it was him, "*Guk.. is this really you?*" It was impossible. This could not be him. *No*.

"*Darling,*" The endearment made her heart ache, "*Who else?*" The same playfulness, the same voice. It was like nothing had changed.

Lisa blinked, confusion etched in her face as she tried to process things in. *Jeongguk. He's here. He's really here.*

The next thing she knew, her eyes were stinging and she was kissing his face all over and she was hugging him - so tight that he couldn't breathe. *It's him it's him it's him it's him*, she thought happily.

"Can you let me breathe for a second?" Jeongguk tried to say while chuckling, hands still holding her waist, "Although I want to die like this, I feel like it's not my time yet."

She laughed, releasing him and cupping his face, "How are you? Are you eating well? How did you know I was here? Did someone follow you? Did you see my bodyguard outside? How did you know

I'd be-

Jeongguk silenced her with a kiss, one that still managed to make her knees weak and turn her feet into jelly. Her hands pulled him closer, loving the way her lips and his were moving against each other.

He pulled away, resting his forehead on hers and murmured, "God, I miss you."

"I miss you too, Junglebook." She smiled softly, still closing her eyes.

"As much as I want to spend more time with you, darling, I can't," He sighed, earning a frown from her, "Your bodyguard is outside. He'd be wondering why you're taking so long... so I'll just make this quick."

"Guk... what are you-" She stopped in surprise as he pulled out a velvet box from his back pocket. He handed it to her, a smile plastered on his face, "What's this?"

Her hands gently opened the box, revealing a ring with a diamond in the center - the most exquisite ring she'd ever laid eyes on. The sight of it made her heart clench.

"Guk..." Lisa started, closing the box, "Guk, I can't-

Jeongguk's hands held hers, "It's yours, Lali."

She shook her head, "Why are you being like this?"

"Because you mean everything to me," A corner of his mouth was tilted up, "Because *I love you*."

What did he say?

Shock was an understatement for what she felt that moment. She couldn't speak, couldn't find the right words. All she did was stare at him, eyes wide and tears already forming.

"Stop," Eyes glossy, she added, "Stop that."

He chuckled, finally embracing her. She felt his chin on his shoulder as he said, "It's true, Lis. It has always been."

He continued, "So... *maybe*," He pulled away, linking their hands, "When our paths cross in the future, when I'm better..." He looked in her eyes, "And when you're out of that company... maybe we can start over again."

A tear fell on her cheek and he wiped it away using his thumb, "Until then... I'd try to take care of myself and continue to be healthy, like you asked me to."

"Guk," Her voice cracked, "You're so stupid."

He kissed her forehead, "I know, darling, I know."

"You're so stupid," She repeated, "But I love you, *still*."

Now it was his turn to be confused.

Lisa scoffed and kissed him on the lips again before cupping his face, "I always will."

Jeongguk's eyes softened as he caressed her cheek with his thumb, "Don't meddle with other boys, yeah? Just me."

"As you wish, Junglebook," She licked her lips, "Hey... I'm sorry for everything that happened. I really am."

He shook his head, "No, no, it's fine. I always knew it'd end up this way," Then, one of his hands went to his nape, scratching it, "Actually... I have another thing to tell you."

She sniffed, "Go on."

"About your nudes..." Oh, Lisa almost forgot about that. The nudes that started it all. "I- please don't kill me, *please*, but I... I already deleted them a long time ago." He cleared his throat, "Specifically after your birthday."

The revelation took her breath away. "You... *what*?" She couldn't believe it... *he deleted them already*? "So all this time we were in a fake relationship... they were gone?"

Jeongguk nodded, jaw clenching.

"But..." She didn't know what to say, this was too much. "But how... *why* did you do that deal with me if you were just going to delete it?"

"*Because I already liked you beforehand*," He admitted, eyes not meeting hers, "And... all those dirty jokes that I've made about jerking off to your nudes and other things: *they weren't true*. I'm sorry for lying."

Lisa didn't know how to react so she just pursed her lips and said, "I- okay. I don't... I don't really know what to say."

His mouth twitched, "Yeah, it's kind of awkward but um..."

Suddenly, her phone rang. She instantly fished it out from her pocket and her eyes turned wide as she saw the caller ID, "My bodyguard's looking for me."

Jeongguk's face was immediately clouded by sadness but he covered it up by smiling, "Of course. It's time for you to go."

She couldn't hide her disappointment as she sighed and encircled her arms around him, wanting to be in his arms for the last time, "I'll miss you, Junglebook."

"I know, darling," He kissed her hair, "I'll miss you more," He pulled away to examine her face, features softening, "I love you."

Her eyes glistened once more as she kissed his nose and replied, "And I love you."

"We'll see each other soon, okay?" Jeongguk put a strand of her hair behind her ear, "Until then, we'll figure out ways to talk to each other without your company finding out."

Lisa's brows scrunched, staring into his eyes. "How can you be so sure?"

He winked at her, "I'm Jeon Jeongguk, remember?"

"Shut up." A smile was on her face as she went back outside, holding all the items she picked from earlier.

After she paid and left the store, Lisa couldn't help but glance back, to see Jeongguk standing at the entrance, hand raised as if to wave at her.

"Who are you looking for, miss?" The bodyguard asked from beside her, making her turn her head back to him.

"No one. I just thought I saw someone I know." She replied, biting her lower lip. "Let's just go back home, yeah?"

The bodyguard just nodded.

■

That night, Lisa couldn't help but open the ring that Jeongguk gave her.

She laid on her bed, admiring the ring in the moonlight. Her cats laid next to her, doing their own business as she held the ring in her hand, extending her arm to see way it shined and glimmered in the light. *Wow, Jeongguk. You are one surprising bastard.* She thought, snorting.

Lisa grabbed the box from the bedside table to return the ring when she caught sight of something that she hasn't seen before. *How odd.* She was too preoccupied a while ago that she wasn't able to notice it.

There, on the upper half of the velvet box and under, a sentence was written.

I'll wait for you. JK

Upon reading it, she scoffed and rolled her eyes.

Who would've thought that because of two nude pictures and one accidental text message, both of their lives would be entwined with each other?

Perhaps, this was meant to occur. If she didn't go to the sauna that day with Chaeyoung, if she went shopping with her instead of staying home... maybe this wouldn't have happened. Maybe they wouldn't have met.

Her eyes turned to her cats, who were now looking at her intently, seeming to be judging her - *again.*

"See," Lisa chuckled, caressing Leo's fur, "Mommy told you this was safe."

The end.

thank you all for supporting NUDES! i first published this story back in october 2018 yet i only updated it this february 2020 (i'm sorry for the almost two years delay lol). the amount of reads that this reached is crazy and i cannot believe that we've gone this far :")

thank you for those who voted, who read, and who commented in NUDES. i can't mention you all one by one but please do know that you guys inspired me to continue this story and for that i am grateful. <<<333

anyway, thank you for the nth time for supporting NUDES! all the love always, caly. 

P.S sadly, there won't be a sequel. it's an open ending and it's up to you if you think JK and Lali got back together.

+ BONUS CHAPTER

surprise!

MARCH 27, 20??

The rooftop has always been Lalisa's favourite place to brood.

Well, not just to brood, but to give herself a moment of tranquility from everything that has been happening around her. A moment of peace from the unending amount of photoshoots, mentoring, and touring.

A little silence in the midst of her hectic schedule.

The view wasn't that bad anyway--the rooftop gave her a view of the magnificent Han River, the tall, towering buildings that were aiming to reach the sky, and her favourite of them all: the exquisite blanket of stars from above, the little balls of light dotting the blank azure canvas providing her hope that something can be beautiful amidst the darkness.

Hope.

Lalisa sighed in contentment as she wrapped her little wool blanket tighter around her, adoration filling her eyes as it flitted through the view that was given to her.

She was thankful, really.

Forcing herself to stand up, she made her way to the balcony, staring down at the bustling metropolis from under. Even after dark, Seoul was and will always be a busy place. It was one of the things she liked about the city, how it feels so lively despite everything that has been occurring.

It wasn't until later, a *bang* was heard from behind.

She whipped her head, surprised, but then rolled her eyes instantly as she saw who caused the noise.

It was no other than Jeon Jeongguk.

Even if he was covering his face with one of his hands, acting like he didn't just accidentally closed the door a little *too* forcefully, Lalisa knew it was him (based on the way he just awkwardly stood there and the door on his right still wide open, a small dent on the corner).

"You look stupid," She spoke while looking at him up and down, "Were you trying to surprise me?"

Jeongguk finally removed his hand from his face and huffed, "Yeah but I was trying to do it like how Andrew Garfield did in

Spiderman."

"Junglebook, you're a total dork, do you know that?" Lalisa smiled to herself softly while making her way towards him, "But that doesn't matter. I missed you."

Jeongguk snickered as she engulfed him to a hug, "Wow, you act as if we haven't seen each other for months now."

"Because we haven't, duh," She pulled away to give him a quick peck on the lips and dragged him towards the balcony, "Come here. Enjoy the view with me."

However, he stopped her, "Wait," He pulled her back again and slowly walked towards her, seemingly to drag his feet. Her breath hitched as he cupped her face in his hand, nearing his face towards hers. "You think I forgot, don't you?"

She felt her heartbeat fasten, but tilted her head in nonchalance, "What do you mean?"

Jeongguk booped her nose with his, "That it's your birthday, darling."

Lalisa faked a surprise expression, "It is?"

A squeal escaped her mouth as he pinched her nose tightly using his right hand, the other pinching her cheek, his touch leaving a red mark. To her dismay and to his delight, he tried to stop the laughter from spilling from his lips with a hand, but his nostrils flared.

"Jeon, I swear to God if I-

"Oh my God," He wheezed, "You look like Rudolph the red-nosed reindeer."

Without thinking, her hands went to his hair and parted it in the middle. "And you look like a coconut tree."

"Hey," Jeongguk tried to fix his hair once more. Lalisa only watched as he failed each time, the hair gel doing its wonders as Jeongguk's parted hair still remained the same. "Great, now I look like a coconut head."

Lalisa didn't say anything, she just narrowed her eyes at him.

He, too, did the same.

They stared at each other for a few seconds before Jeongguk broke into laughter. "I'm sorry, it's just... you look like a fuming dumpling when you're mad."

"Whatever," She shrugged and turned around, only to hide her smile. "What were you going to tell me?"

Jeongguk, with his parted hair and bunny smile, scurried to stand beside her. "I mean, it's your birthday."

"Yeah, and?"

"And I wanted to give you this." He held out a closed fist (actually, nothing was inside) and she immediately touched it, but frowned when he took it back. "Before that, we have to do

something important."

The way he said it made her raise her brows, "Now? Guk, I'm not sexually."

"Darling, you have such a dirty mind," He smirked at her, "But no. It's not *that*."

"Then what?"

Wordlessly, she watched as he offered one of his hands, dramatically curtsying. She couldn't help but glance at his parted hair and clenched her teeth to reel in her laugh. "Can I have this dance?"

The corners of her mouth tilted upwards, "Why not?" She placed a hand in his and smiled as he took them into the middle of the rooftop.

Jeongguk fished out a pair of white earphones from his pocket and plugged it into his phone. "Don't you prefer AirPods?" She blurted out.

He chuckled as he placed one to her ear, "Then I won't have any reason to do this, would I?" His hands automatically went to her waist and hers encircled his shoulders.

Jeon Jeongguk and his ways, she thought.

In a second, a familiar melody lilted to her ear. A certain memory came back from the past, a bit hazy than her mind imagined it to be, but it was as if a veil had been removed as the dulcet voice of a woman started singing.

Tonight, I'll send you the glow of the firefly to somewhere in your window

She didn't realize that Jeongguk was already staring at her when she looked up to see a smile gracing his lips, "I... I remember this song." She said.

It's that I love you

"I hoped you would," He murmured, "You kissed me that time, after all."

Outlandish as it might sound, her cheeks reddened. "It was a *thank you* for what you've done for me."

"I do hope I get *more* than a kiss this time, seeing as I've done a billion things for you," He joked, but winced as she pinched his arm, "Joking, darling."

I remember our first kiss

"You better. I don't plan on doing *it* while my manager's in the living room."

I close my eyes whenever I can and go to the farthest place

Lalisa didn't know how long it had been since that fateful day with CEO Hwang, but still to this day, she was being monitored although it lessened, seeing as there were no evidences that she and

Jeongguk had been together.

She must say, Jeongguk got some nerve.

"We can invite him in, you know." He wriggled his brows.

"Your ideas are the worst, I swear," She rolled her eyes, "Remember that time when we tried eating out in public and he almost saw us?"

"I can never forget that. I had to hide in the women's comfort room just so he couldn't find me," He huffed, "The girls inside started screaming."

Just like letters on the sand where waves were

Lalisa scoffed at the memory, "It was *your* idea so technically it was *your* fault."

"I know, I was just trying out my luck."

Still swaying to the beat of the song, she muttered, "Do you think we'll be able to be free one day?"

I feel you'll disappear to a far off place

If the sudden topic change bothered him, he didn't let it show. Jeongguk placed a kiss on her forehead instead, "Of course, darling. We deserve to be happy, too, and being enclosed in this make shift cage will only cause us more damage."

I always miss you, miss you

"Wow, have you always been this deep before?"

He puffed his cheek, "Haha, you're so funny." But then he turned serious, "No matter what happens, though, we'll always be together."

"That's so cliché."

"Cliché, but it's the truth."

All the words in my heart

Lalisa shrugged and laid her head on him, sighing happily as she felt him embrace her fully.

I can't show them all to you

"Darling," He spoke in the midst of silence.

"Hmmm?"

"You know that I love you, right?"

But it's that I love you

She pulled away slightly just to look him in the eyes to find that his were already filled with pure adoration, the sight clenching and unclenching her love-filled heart, "I love you, too."

The instrumental of the song played, and she couldn't help but add, "I love you--*even* if you look like a tree with that coconut hair of yours, *even* if you forget to text me because you fall asleep first, *even* if your breath kind of smells bad in the morning, *even* if my cats adore you more than me, *even* if you win at every game we play." His eyes dazzled under the light of the rooftop, "I love you

even if what we have between us is kept as a secret."

How can I be so lucky to have met you, who is a blessing

Jeongguk blinked his eyes furiously, and Lalisa thought she saw a hint of red in his nose, "If you think I'm crying, I'm not." He sniffed, "I just... I have eye disease."

She was about to retort but then he cupped her face, so gently that she leaned into his touch, "I can't make a speech as good as you, but I love you, too, darling. Very much."

Just as she opened her mouth, a booming sound interrupted her.

Jeongguk laughed as he saw her close her eyes, "Open your eyes, Lali."

Slowly, she did. And boy, she did not regret it.

Because in that star-filled azure she was staring at earlier, blazing arcs of light trailed from above. Fiery sparks painted the sky, and Lalisa let out a small sound that might have been between a laugh and a sob. Either way, Jeongguk's eyes didn't leave her overwhelmed face as she stared at the brilliant inks of light on a canvas of stars.

"Happy birthday, darling," He said softly as her teary eyes faced him again. The way she looked at that moment, Jeongguk wanted nothing more than to take a picture. Bewilderment, joy, and longing. It was all drawn in that ethereal face of hers.

"You..." Her voice was hoarse as she started, "You did this?" He nodded, "*For me?*"

"All for you."

IU'S voice was long gone as the sound of the booming fireworks made its way to their ears.

Lalisa took him by surprise when she pulled his head towards hers for a passionate kiss, and the world faded away into nothingness.

It was slow and soft, comforting in ways that words can never be. It filled in all the crevices in his heart like a remedy, those that were full of doubt and insecurity.

He pulled away, just as he saw a tear cascade down her cheek. Without thinking, he kissed it away.

"Guk," She rasped out, a happy smile on her face, "I love you."

"Stop crying, you literally look like Rudolph now," He fake tsked and hugged her tight, never wanting this moment to end, "I love you, darling. To the sun and back--if there's such a thing."

In silence, they watched as the fireworks faded, one by one, until all that was left were the stars, gazing upon the two lovers dressed in moonlight, their love radiating throughout the world.

Tonight I'll send the glow of a firefly to somewhere

Next your window

I hope it's a good dream.

▪□

a/n: first of all that was just a dramatic ending i'm cjaxsjdkkxkx

what's up everyone!!! it has been a month since i completed NUDES and i thought it would be nice if i would publish a short bonus chapter for you all, since you guys deserve everything good in this world.

(it's actually tomorrow, may 9th, but i published this in advance bc i have something to do tomorrow so i can't really get on w this chap)

thank you so much for reading NUDES! i really can't thank you enough but please do know that i appreciate each and everyone of you who had shown love to this book. <3

P.S Jeongguk is more superior than Jungkook. won't be making any changes in this book and my upcoming lk book. hehe I'll still call him Jeongguk :P

love you all!!!!

all the love, caly. 